ST JOHN THE DIVINE BROOKLANDS · SALE



May 2018 40p



From the Editor

May already. By the time you read this the 150th Anniversary celebrations will have happened. The June edition will carry reports of the events. The Annual Meeting will also have been and gone and we will start to look forward to the second half of the year when our attention turns towards the future rather than the past. To get us in the mood there is a short news piece on artificial intelligence. Nothing to do with spiritual renewal but interesting. At least to the editor. If only it could put out chairs and make the tea on a Sunday morning...

May also marks the beginning of the holiday season. Many readers attend church when they go away so if you do, please let us know where you want and how the service was. You might even leave a copy of our magazine behind. Perhaps we can give a prize for the most interesting holiday snap featuring the St John's Parish Magazine.

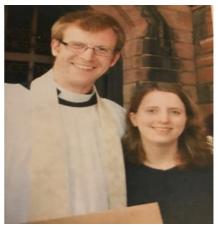
So, what's in store this month. Pentecost will be upon us and Isabel tells us something about a prayer initiative. May 6th is Godparents Sunday and there is a short piece on the importance of the role. We are still in nostalgic mode as we look back at the events of 100 and 50 years ago and Mike gives some detail about one of our windows. There are also regular contributions including Sharon's monthly saint.

One thing that is on the to-do list is to reconnect with those who previously advertised in the magazine and try to build that up again. If you know anybody who would like to take advantage of our incredibly reasonable rates please let me know. It would be remiss if I failed to mention Christian Aid week. Jill does a great job each year and your support is needed again.

The Editor brooklandsmag@gmail.com

Richard writes...

Last month I invited you to imagine we're now in 2023 and write a letter to a friend describing what has happened at St John's over those five years. What did you write? What dreams did you dream? What visions did you see? I hope that it was an encouraging and helpful exercise and I would encourage you to continue to reflect on this as we prepare for our Parish Vision Day in



September. Quoting the prophet Joel, the apostle Peter says in Acts: 'In the last days,' God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams.' These are good words for us at this time!

It is during May that Luke-Acts really comes into its own. The church's calendar refocus our attention upon Ascension and Pentecost, when Jesus ascended to heaven at the close of his earthly ministry and the coming of the Spirit on Pentecost and the church was born. As we celebrate St John's 150th birthday we have been reminded that St John's is a place of welcome and worship; now Luke-Acts reminds us of another 'W,' witness! 'You are witnesses,' says Jesus in Luke (24:48) and in Acts he tells his disciples, 'you will be my witnesses' (1:8). Welcome, worship, and witness. Each one mutually reinforces the other: our welcome of others witnesses that we are people who worship a God who welcomes us into his presence to know him; our worship witnesses that God is a welcoming God who calls us to welcome others; our witness is that the God whom we worship has welcomed us into his family and so we seek to welcome everyone. May I encourage you to read through Acts if you've not done so recently; it's exciting stuff!



I am also excited to be able to tell you that on Ascension Day (May 10^{th}) we're hosting the Deanery Ascension Day service at 7.30pm and then on Pentecost (May 20^{th}) we shall be joined by Karen Beal at our Family Communion service at 10.30. Karen is the Diocesan Children's Work Officer and she will be speaking about what it means to welcome children into worship and the wider-life of the church. Between these two great feast days we shall be engaging with *Thy Kingdom Come*, which their website tells us is 'a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ.' Please make this a priority during Ascensiontide!

As I finish, it is worth highlighting that following our Annual Meeting (APCM) in April our new Wardens and Sidespeople will gather in May/June to think and reflect on what these roles and responsibilities mean within the context of the church's mission. This will form part of nurturing a leadership culture in the parish where volunteers are empowered and equipped to exercise their ministry within St John's. Ian Parkinson discusses this in chapter 6 of *Reignite*, but more of that another time!

Richard

Baptismal Anniversaries

Elle Price
Ralph Thomas Price
Josef Armir Skiba





Behind the scenes at St Johns

PCC REPORT - March 2018

The PCC met on 13th March the main agenda being preparing for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on 26th April. We approved the Annual Report and Accounts which have been available at the back of church and will shortly be available online to read. As a result of the hard work put in by the Policy Review Group set up at the January PCC meeting, we were also able to formally approve and adopt the following policies, copies of which can be obtained from the PCC Secretary or located in the Policy Folder stored in the vestry:

Conflicts of Interest Policy Complaints Policy Reserves Policy Investments Policy Policy for Paying Staff Volunteer Policy

In May the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) come into effect and to ensure we are compliant with these the Parish has adopted a Privacy Notice.

Finally, as we continue to explore what we think as a parish about children and Communion, the PCC also approved an explanatory document and draft Children and Communion Policy ready for wider consultation. It is intended that this process shall begin after Pentecost in early June.

If you wish to carry out some preliminary reading both of the following documents are recommended:

Admission of Children to Communion Before Confirmation - Study Pack online at https://www.manchester.anglican.org/documents/ admission-children-communion-confirmation-june-2017/

Growing Disciples: Welcoming baptized children to Holy Communion (research report) online at https://www.manchester.anglican.org/documents/growing-disciples-welcoming-baptized-children-holy-communion/



From the Archive

The Jubilee - The commemoration of the Jubilee of our Parish Church (1868-1918) so long looked forward to, and in view of which careful arrangements mad been duly made in regard to the Services during the Octave-for the social aspect had of necessity to be put to one side during the present troubles and anxieties-has now to be numbered among the past events in the history of our parish. Sic transit Gloria mundi. ¹

We were particularly fortunate in regard to the weather, which continued beautifully fine over both the Sundays and helped in no small measure to induce the attendance of large congregations at all the services. For this we were indeed grateful, grateful also to the preachers for all their kindness, and last but by no means least, to our organist and all the members of the choir and their very willing friends for the splendid way in which they all worked to add their own important quota to the happiness of the event.

It has been a matter of general comment that the rendering of the "Creation" upon the Friday evening was one of the most finished productions ever rendered at S. John's, and what afforded us all particular enjoyment in addition to the exquisite staging of the soprano parts was the rendering of the bass solos by Mr. A. S. Kinnell with all his former power and vigor and individual gift of enunciation. Out unstinted praise must be accorded to the organist for all the anxious thought and untiring labour that he put forth to a success so unqualified and of so great delight to all. That we were able amindst our present anxious, restrictions and disorganisation of the ordinary routine of life to bring our Commemoration to so great and so successfully happy conclusion is a worthy and fitting comment on the wisdom of its observations.

The offerings towards the Endowment Fund amounted to a little over £24, and they bring this fund, which has met with such generous and spontaneous support, to the amount herein mentioned.

¹Thus passes the glory of the world; a Latin sentence spoken during the coronation of a new Pope, while flax is burned to represent the transitoriness of earthly glory. It was first used at the coronation of Alexander V in Pisa, 7 July 1409, but is earlier in origin; it may ultimately derive from 'O quam cito transit gloria mundi [Oh how quickly the glory of the world passes away]' in the De Imitatione Christi of **Thomas** à Kempis. Ed (and with apologies to those who have the Latin.)

Our grateful thanks are also due to Mrs. Lomax and to Miss Duffill for their kindness of thought in supplying the beautiful flowers for the altar during the festival.

Rev. Cyril Bethell Jones May 1918

Rev. E.F. Buckley began his May 1968 letter saying that as everybody should have attended the Easter services he ought not have to describe them. Helpfully though he does and describes sunny weather and wonderful flowers. The main point of his letter though was to discuss the problem of 'public opinion' "We church people have become so used to this that we have become prone to the same attitude. We feel that we must at all costs make Christianity popular, make it attractive, make it entertaining", he comments. I wonder what he would say now to trial by social media?

The magazine reports on a trip by the Silver Fox Travel Association to York. (Probably not a name we'd want to use today.) The Mothers Union and Christian Fellowship held a jumble sale that raised £42 and the Young Mums had collectively made over 150 pounds of marmalade raising over £12 for the Parish Hall Fund.

The inside cover contained a poem, 'Advice to Churchgoers'.

When once thy foot enters the Church, be bare.

God is more there, than thou: for thou art there

Only by his permission. Then beware,

And make thyself all reverence and fear.

Kneeling ne'er spoiled silk stockings: quit they state.

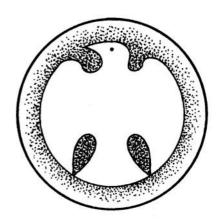
All equal are within the church's gate.

George Herbert (1593-1633)

Thy Kingdom Come

From Ascension Day to Pentecost Sunday, 10th - 20th May 2018, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York are inviting Christians to join a wave of prayer across the UK and around the world, praying that our families, friends and neighbours might come to know Jesus or know him better.

The hope of the Archbishops is that as Christians pray together - as individuals, families and as a church, we will be:



- transformed through prayer
- given new confidence and encouragement by the Holy Spirit
- be effective witnesses to Jesus Christ

This year we celebrate 150 years of worship and fellowship at St John's. We give thanks for all who have gone before us, for their witness and commitment to serve God faithfully in this parish and beyond. As we look forward to the coming days, let us pray that **we** may grow in faith and discipleship and reach out to share the good news of Jesus with others.

Let us all participate in that global wave of prayer. Let us all #Pledge2Pray

For more details, visit www.thykingdomcome.global

"I cannot remember in my life anything that I've been involved in where I have sensed so clearly the work of the Spirit" - Archbishop Justin Welby

On Thursday 10th May, the Deanery Ascension Day service will be held at St John's at 7.30pm. The church will be open on each of the Thy Kingdom Come days of prayer between Ascension Day and Pentecost Sunday.

Details of times will be listed on our Thy Kingdom Come noticeboard.

Heavenly Father,

as on the first Pentecost, you gave power to your Son's disciples to proclaim the Good News,

Grant us the gift to share our knowledge and love of Christ through words and deeds that will reach the hearts and minds of our own neighbours.

Saint Malfalda 1203-1257

Malfalda was a princess, the daughter of King Sandro of Portugal. In 1215 she married her cousin, Henry 1 of Castile. The marriage was annulled though and Malfalda returned to Portugal.

In 1222 she took the veil, at Acouca nunnery, where she persuaded the nuns to become Cistercian. During her time there she habitually slept on the ground or spent the night in prayer. Her vast fortune was spent on restoring Oporto Cathedral; founding a hospital for widows and a hospice for pilgrims; and building a bridge over the river Talmeda.

She ended her life in sackcloth and ashes and died in 1257. In 1617 her body was exhumed and found to be uncorrupt. Her status was confirmed in 1793 and her feast day is 2 May.

Sharon Marlow

Godparents - a real role to play

To be asked to become a godparent is a real honour. Ideally, it should go on to become a lifelong commitment that turns into a deep and loving relationship between godparent and child. Sadly, too often it wanes into a duty to be met by Christmas presents and birthday cheques.

A godparent is a member of the family 'once removed', and in an ideal position to enjoy the company of the young person without any parental responsibility. Godparents can share their life experiences, hobbies and past-times with the youngster, and thus greatly enrich their childhood.

These days many godparents are chosen with the idea of guardianship in mind, in case anything ever happen to the parents. But the practise of appointing godparents goes back many hundreds of years.

Godparents were originally known as sponsors, from the Latin word spondere, meaning 'to promise'. In pagan times a sponsor had to be known to the bishop when a person was introduced into the church. Godparents have the job of speaking up for the child. They must themselves have been baptised, though not necessarily confirmed.

Canon Law advises that 'for every child there are no fewer than three godparents'

Often parents choose two people from the same sex as the baby, and one other male/female. They can be friends or even members of the family.

Prayer and Praise: Christian Aid Week 13th-19th May

Jill Chandler writes

House-to-house collections are amazing - and not just because they raise millions of pounds each Christian Aid Week! They are also a great chance for our church to reach out into our community and get to know the neighbours. It is the UK's biggest act of Christian witness.

The envelopes for our area, which Framingham Road and Woodbourne Road part of the Parish, will be at the back of Church on Sundays 6th and 13th may. Please help if you can.

Jill Chandler (973 7188)



From Around St John's



Many greetings to all. Our meeting in April saw us entertained by Rona Barbour, a storyteller. We also had our AGM as we were unable to conduct it earlier due to poor attendance.

Our next meeting, will see us welcoming our vicar Rev Richard Sherrett, who will hopefully talk about his life. As it is Ascension Dayy on 11 May this may also be a topic for discussion.

We meet on Wednesday 9 May, all are welcome.

Sharon Marlow

MANCHESTER MARATHON 2018

Many thanks to the small band of volunteers who bagged up some 2,300 bags of jelly babies and 720 bags of Jaffa cakes for the Manchester marathon runners on Sunday 8th April. This took almost 2 hours to achieve on the Saturday morning .

With some 11,500 runners, our efforts were warmly appreciated by those who passed by on the route at both 9 miles and 15 miles into the race. We were thanked on the day and have had some positive feedback on Twitter and Facebook.

A huge thanks to all those who contributed funds, bought cakes or donated tea, coffee and biscuits etc to enable us to provide the runners with a little sustenance.

Also to those who helped set up on the day and manned the coffee stall and also to Steve (our DJ for the day). Despite being dry it was surprisingly cold standing outside for over 4 hours offering warm drinks to the local community, but this was also appreciated by the spectators cheering

Phil Dykes

on the runners.



Mary Webster writes

I have a confession to make. Oh, that sounds bad doesn't it well not really as it isn't anything wicked. In fact, I am going to tell you about our March meeting at Women's Fellowship that I didn't attend, not much of a confession really is it?

The evening was taken up listening to a gentleman called Mr E W Mason who regaled his audience with some of his favourite melodies which, I think, may have stretched from his early years until his more advanced years.

As you can imagine they were many and varied and, as usual, our ladies tried to sing along although occasionally it proved a challenge as not all the tunes were familiar. There was a great deal of chat and hilarity and a truly memorable evening was had by all.

Just a gentle reminder about our Charity fundraising evening on Wednesday 23 May in aid of 'Mind', an organisation helping people who suffer from mental health issues. Please come along and help support us in our efforts. Thank you in anticipation.

During our evening on 27 June we will hear from Sophie Meadows about her work with Hearing Dogs. I imagine it will prove insightful and interesting. Ladies, if you want to learn more please don't hesitate to join us, we'd love to see you. Meetings are free to members however, there is a small charge of £2 for visitors.

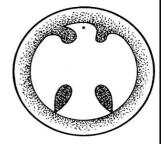
Well that's all for now folks except to say that I hope the weather improves as I don't know about you, but my allotment is a nightmare. So, Mary sort yourself out and get planting and growing, you know you'll enjoy it really!

Keep cheerful, happy and positive and count your Blessings, for they are many.

Sanctuary Guild - May

Volunteers in the Sanctuary Guild take turns to clean the brasses in church, such as the altar cross, candlesticks, offertory plates and lecterns.

May 4th Mrs L Vickers and Mrs C Parry May 18th Mrs R Shaw and Mrs P Tallis





Thank you everyone who donated items or bought tickets, We ended up with 3 x Hampers and 3 x smaller prizes.

Winners 1st Flo 2nd Florence Moore Caroline Windle 4th Gill Chandler 6th Phil Gregory 3rd 5th Geoff Richards Gill Chandler Hilary Hamblett

A big thank you to Carole Herd and Mike Lawrence who helped to sell the tickets. We raised £291 towards our $150^{\rm th}$ Anniversary celebration weekend.

Many thanks Carys

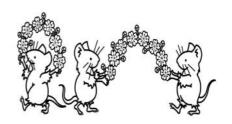


Easter Flowers

Were splendid weren't they. Many thanks to those who contributed their time and artistic flair in making our Church look so magnificent. The Flower Team comprises Marcela, Ruth, Lynda, Judith, Pam, Marion, Lilian and Kay. They send their thanks to those who contributed to the purchase of the Easter flowers.







St John The Divine, Brooklands

Summer Fair



Sat 30 June 2018

Time: 2:00 – 4:30 pm

Entertainment Raffle Tombola Beer Tent

Face painting BBQ Cakes Bouncy castle

Afternoon Teas Childrens Stalls Plate Smashing

and more for our 150th Anniversary celebrations

Adults: 50 pence Children: Free

Have you a computer problem?

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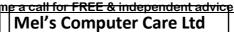
- Virus removal and health checks
- Internet & Email set up
- New computer installations
- Upgrades & repairs
- Help and advice on how to get the best out of your computer
- Back up & data recovery
- Training & support
- Laptop & computer repairs
- I can supply computers & laptops at very competitive prices and include data transfer, full set up & full guidance

Quite simply my aim is to provide an effective, quick, reliable and friendly service without unnecessary jargon.

With over 14 years of commercial computer experience, there is not a problem I cannot fix.

Please give me a call, now or any time in the future. I am here to help you with any technology problem, however big or small.

STOP PRESS! Microsoft have now removed support for all Windows XP systems, which could affect the security of your software. If you are using



Sale, Manchester, UK Local (Sale) 0161 977 0107 I can also supply computers & laptops at very competitive prices & include data transfer, setup & guidance

The Bishop's 10 Commandments for AI and robots

As we have spent so much time looking backwards in recent magazines, maybe we need to look forwards too. Whoever knew that there was a House of Lords Committee on 'Artificial Intelligence' (AI), but there is. So to bring magazine readers right into the 21st century we can report that the Bishop of Oxford has suggested '10 commandments' that might be given for AI and robots, in order to ensure that artificial intelligence helps mankind, and does not oppress it.

Bishop Steven Croft, who sits on the House of Lords select committee on artificial intelligence, suggests the following:

- 1. Al should be designed for all, and benefit humanity.
- 2. Al should operate on principles of transparency and fairness, and be well signposted [signposting refers to road signs and the directions they provide].
- 3. Al should not be used to transgress the data rights and privacy of individuals, families, or communities.
- 4. The application of AI should be to reduce inequality of wealth, health, and opportunity.
- 5. Al should not be used for criminal intent, nor to subvert the values of our democracy, nor truth, nor courtesy in public discourse.
- 6. The primary purpose of AI should be to enhance and augment, rather than replace, human labour and creativity.
- 7. All citizens have the right to be adequately educated to flourish mentally, emotionally, and economically in a digital and artificially intelligent world.
- 8. Al should never be developed or deployed separately from consideration of the ethical consequences of its applications.
- 9. The autonomous power to hurt or destroy should never be vested in Al.
- 10. Governments should ensure that the best research and application of Al is directed toward the most urgent problems facing humanity.

Of course science fiction buffs will be aware that Isaac Asimov's laws of robotics managed to say most of this in just three.

And in case you thought there were no funnies...

Some miscellaneous one-liners ...

In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes.

The best vitamin for a Christian is B1.

The Church: under the same management for over 2000 years.

Soul food served here.

Don't give up on yourself. Even Moses was once a basket case.

Satan subtracts and divides. God adds and multiplies.

What he lacked in depth as a preacher he made up for in length. *Mark Twain*

Was Noah's wife called Joan of Ark?

Lead me not into temptation. I can find it myself.

The things that come to those that wait may be the things left by those who got there first.

Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.

Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

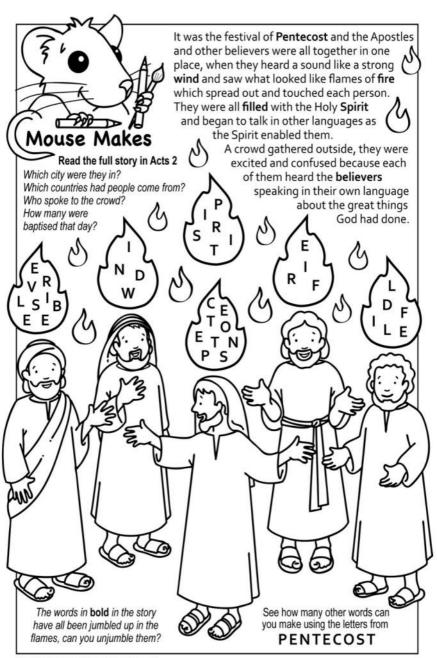
If you lend someone £20, and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

Birds of a feather flock together and mess on your car.

As good as it gets

A shipwrecked man spent five years on a deserted island. One day he was overjoyed to see a ship drop anchor in the bay. A dinghy approached, and a ship's officer handed the sailor The Times, The Financial Times and The Daily Telegraph. "The captain suggests," said the officer, "that you read what's going on in the world before you decide if you wish to be rescued."





May18 @ deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

Who do you think they were?

James and Ellen Lowe and their beloved child Eddie

The inscription on the third pane of The Children's Window (first window on the left side of the nave nearest the sidespersons' pews) dated 1884 reads 'To the glory of God and in memory of their beloved child Eddie by James and Ellen Lowe'. The only link I have found with the Parish of a James and Ellen Lowe is through their daughter, Mary Eliza, who married Edmund William Tennant, a resident of the Parish, in November 1886.

James, (a merchant by profession) and Ellen were married in about 1860 and lived in Chorlton. Their first child was Mary Eliza who was born in 1862 and she was baptised on 14th August in St Mary's Church, Manchester (situated between Deansgate and the River Irwell and demolished in 1891). Twins George Edward Herbert and John Chamberlain were born in 1868 and baptised in St Mary's Church on 13th June. John could only have survived a few days as his death is recorded in the July- September Quarter of the same year. The other son, George Edward Herbert died in 1870 aged 2, and it is he who I believe is 'Eddie' referred to in the inscription. I have reached this conclusion as I have been unable to find from the National Birth and Death Indexes any Eddie (or similar name) Lowe's who were born and died between 1860 and 1884.

James Lowe, who died in April 1899, was a man of considerable means. The effects of his estate were valued at £106,051:18s:4d which using the Retail Price Index as a comparator is worth £11,000,000 today. His widow Ellen died in May 1900.

Edmund and Mary settled in Upton Upon Severn, Worcestershire where Edmund died in 1924 aged 64, and Mary in 1959 aged 96. They had one son, William George Tennant born January 1890, who was to rise to the rank of Admiral in the Royal Navy.

Admiral Sir William George Tennant, K.C.B., C.B.E., M.V.O.

He served in the Royal Navy from 1905 to 1949. There is a lot of information on his career on the internet for any reader interested. Briefly, he was at Jutland in WW1 and in WW2 was given the task of organising the evacuation of troops from Dunkirk for which he was awarded the C.B.E.. Following Dunkirk he was appointed Captain of HMS Repulse which was sunk by the Japanese - fortunately he was rescued. He was involved in the Normandy landings being given the responsibility of organising naval supplies. He died in 1963.

Mike Lawrence



Phil & Gill Etherington



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Parish Diary May 2018

2 nd		Holy Communion Crafty Chat
6 th	10.30 12.30	FEaster Holy Communion Parish Eucharist Holy Baptism Evensong
9 th		Holy Communion Mothers' Union
10 th	Ascension Day	
	7.30	Ascension Day Service St John the Divine
13 th	9.15 10.30	Easter Holy Communion Breakfast Welcome All Age Service of the Word Evensong
16 th		Holy Communion Crafty Chat
20 th Day of Pentecost		cost
	8.30 10.30	Holy Communion Parish Eucharist Evensong
23 rd		Holy Communion Holy Communion and Women's Fellowship
27 th	10.30 12.30	lay Holy Communion Parish Eucharist Holy Baptism Evensong
30 th	10.00	Holy Communion

The Parish Church of

St. John the Divine, Brooklands

In the Deanery of Withington, In the Diocese of Manchester, In the Province of York

Website: www.stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.30am Holy Communion 10.30 am Family Communion

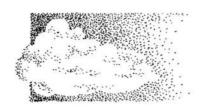
(Second Sunday of the Month All-Age Worship)

5.30pm Choral Evensong

Holy Communion is celebrated on Holy Days and Saints Days as anounced.

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May 2018

God makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth; He sends lightning with the rain and brings out the wind from His storehouses. Psalm 135:7

LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way. Exodus 13:21

the sky with clouds. He supplies the earth with rain and makes the grass grow. Psalm 147:8

Can you count the clouds or pour out their rain?" Job 38:37

cloud covered them and a voice from the cloud said. "This is My Son and I love him. Listen to him!" Mark 9:7

And while they were watching, Jesus was taken up into a cloud, and was hidden from view.

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