

## St James' Thought for the day – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### Thoughts on fire by Revd John Marshall

In morning prayer we say “As we rejoice in the gift of this new day so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen

At Pentecost we were reminded that the Holy Spirit appeared with tongues of fire on the disciples' heads.

However recently, watching “Inside the factory” (about baked beans) we were taken into the largest steel works at Port Talbot and we saw the power of fire turning tons of crushed tin cans back into the sheet steel that will be turned back into tin cans. The fire was ferocious and effective.

Throughout the Bible there are images of fire – God seals covenants with a flame, God appears to Moses in the burning bush. God is seen to be with the Israelites in a pillar of fire by night. Who can forget Elijah's sacrifice when God answers by fire. There are so many stories, perhaps I should read them in some detail

John the Baptist says of Jesus “He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”

There are also mentions of refiner's fire. And in hymn 475 we ask to purify our hearts in refiner's fire (Brian Doerksen)

We remember that John Wesley's heart was strangely warmed, by God. As a child he was plucked as a brand from the burning, and believed he was saved for the purposes of God.

So too O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you.

**Song:** Refiners fire by Brian Doerksen, you can listen to it here  
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0lvXA0yRDwY>

Purify my heart,  
Let me be as gold and precious silver.  
Purify my heart,

Let me be as gold, pure gold.

Refiner's fire,  
My heart's one desire  
Is to be... holy;  
Set apart for You, Lord.  
I choose to be... holy;  
Set apart for You, my Master,  
Ready to do Your will.

Purify my heart,  
Cleanse me from within  
And make me holy.  
Purify my heart,  
Cleanse me from my sin, deep within.

**Prayer:**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence to reflect*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever.  
Amen.