

St James Thought for the day – Wednesday 13th May 2020

The Spirit helps us

- Rev John Marshall.

This hope thing is catching; our daughter Jo sent us a picture of a yacht, moored in the Saltings at Tollesbury Essex, and sent with it the instruction to zoom in and look at its name, “Good Hope”, on the boom (at the bottom of the sail.) You can see the rainbow over the boat. She took the picture while taking her exercise.



Once as teenager, I went sailing on the Norfolk Broads, and I was allowed to attempt to steer as the yacht was speeding along, powered by, as I thought, a fierce wind. Helped by my Bible class leader, who was a good sailor.

I haven't forgotten the experience (or the snow at Easter). But the power of the Holy Spirit to support, encourage and enable Christians to do God's work in this world is remarkable.

The tune of the Skye Boat song evokes sailing. The words of
M V Oid speak of the Holy Spirit in the song in Sing to God (S.U.)

(Chorus)

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,

Gentle as is the dove.

Teach us the truth, and help us believe,

Show us the Saviour's love.

1 You spoke to man long, long ago,

Gave us the written Word,

We need it still, needing its truth,

Through it God's voice is heard.

(Chorus)

2 Without Your help we fail our Lord,

We cannot live His way;

We need Your power, we need Your strength,

Following Christ each day.

(Chorus)

Go well, stay well, John.

Song – as above – you can listen to it here -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dy8AZ46GKqc>

Bible Verse:

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples – John 15:5-8