Sermon:

UK & USA – 2 countries separated by a common language! Similar for UK & NZ, including differing pronounciation – Pit Day at Lagmhor! This came about in remarkably short time.

Genesis story tries to explain how the descendants of one family now speak diff languages.

Building high towers continues today – Burj Khalifa in Dubai (830m), but Jeddah Tower in Saudi Arabia (1000m) due in 2018. Babel led to mix up of languages.

NB (It came upon the midnight clear) 108 HAP v2 – ***And ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing***.

The story is part of a tale of deteriorating relations between humans & God, after Noah & before Abraham.

Why? Human pride & power seeking. This is ever the human story ☹

It is formalised in sports, but power lies at the heart of ISIS, Brexit, Tax policy, Donald Trump, towers.

It is seen in Church splits, divorces, domestic violence, inter-school rivalry.

Human society is broken at all levels – failure to understand another’s language and culture is one sign – eg Maori/Pakeha relations. All leads to chaos.

What is the solution? Is it trivial to say ‘Holy Spirit’? Pentecost reverses Babel. People from all over the world can understand a common speech!

665 WOV v5: ***defeat our Babel with your Pentecost***.

Note that the early Church was not without dispute, so not perfect (eg Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5).

True today. Whilst the Church might know the answer, it does not always show it in its life.

Holy Spirit needs continually to come to individuals, churches, societies & our world to dispel pride & power seeking.