

10 June 2009: Robin Ive of Petersfield United Reformed Church

Limitation on church is just us

The church started with a handful of ordinary believers with no building or structure, no administrators, no secretaries, TV or phones and no money.

But it changed the world in 30 years with hundreds of millions of believers. There were no barriers of race or gender, all races were involved. It also affected relationships and the care of the needy and encouraged the start of education and hospitals. How did it begin?

It started on the day of Pentecost when an amazing thing happened. We are told that the believers were together in one place when suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind from heaven filled the house where they were sitting.

They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. Just before this happened Jesus had appeared to a large number of people over a short period of time, but had promised to return as the Holy Spirit.

Although we are now in a different age, we still have the resources of the early church, the limitation is us. It cost many of the Christians in the early church terrible persecution, but they were 100 per cent sure of their belief.

What is stopping it from happening today?