



Introduction

Our Messy Church at Home this month will help you to prepare for the Biggest Messy Church Ever on YouTube:

(https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGJCr5O7LrU3jPc_lmTFhOg) at 3.00 pm on Saturday 22 May, which is the day before we celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the church. It will be a short (20 minutes) celebration with storytelling and fun prayers – you might even be able to pray with some of the things you’ve made! Do watch it later if you can’t watch live.

Pentecost is a birthday celebration for the church, which was started fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead with the coming of the Holy Spirit.

The bible passage is from Acts 2:1-6

On the day of Pentecost all the Lord’s followers were together in one place. ² Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind! It filled the house where they were meeting. ³ Then they saw what looked like fiery tongues moving in all directions, and a tongue came and settled on each person there. ⁴ The Holy Spirit took control of everyone, and they began speaking whatever languages the Spirit let them speak.

⁵ Many Jews from every country in the world were living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And when they heard this noise, a crowd gathered. But they were surprised because they were hearing everything in their own languages.

Contemporary English Version

The word ‘Pentecost’ comes from the Greek word for ‘fiftieth’ and refers to the festival celebrated on the 50th day after Passover. It is the festival that recalls the day when the Holy Spirit came with power to the first followers of Jesus in Jerusalem. It also means we have a great excuse to celebrate and have a birthday party. I am sure Jesus would approve! I am sure he would have enjoyed Messy Church. When you think about it, most of his teaching was done in the form of stories, he would have loved the food and the celebration, and sometimes if our activities work properly, it is a miracle!

Activities:

1. Crown of flames

You need: two strips of card 4cms wide, cut lengthwise from A4 stiff paper or card (yellow or orange if possible). Three sheets of coloured paper (ideally red, orange and yellow), glue, scissors, sticky tape.



Cut three flame shapes from each sheet of coloured paper – three large red ones, three orange medium ones and three yellow small ones.

In centre of one headband strip glue a red shape, then glue just the bottom of the orange and then the yellow one and stick each on to make the flame.

Glue another flame each side of the central one.

Sellotape the other headband strip to the first one and fit it around your head. Tape or use a paper clip to attach the other ends together, so that your crown fits your head.

Talk about: how bishops in the church wear a pointy hat, called a mitre. Some see these as being like the tongues of fire that appeared on the heads of Jesus' followers.

2. Birthday chocolate mug cake

You will need: 4tbs Self raising flour, 2tbs sugar, 2tbs cocoa powder, 1 egg, 3tbs milk, 3tbs vegetable oil, 1/2 tsp vanilla essence, birthday candle.

Put all the dry ingredients in a large mug and mix well with a spoon. Add the beaten egg on top of the dry ingredients. Add the oil, milk, and vanilla essence and mix well. Put in the microwave for 3 minutes, on high. You can make any flavour cake you like by replacing the cocoa powder with something else – some orange flavouring, lemon zest, or increase the vanilla essence a little.

Put the birthday candle on top of the birthday cake and ENJOY!!!!!!!



Talk about whether you think Jesus enjoyed a party. There are many bible stories about Jesus at a party. At the wedding feast he turned water into wine so that the party could continue! We are told he often ate with people that the

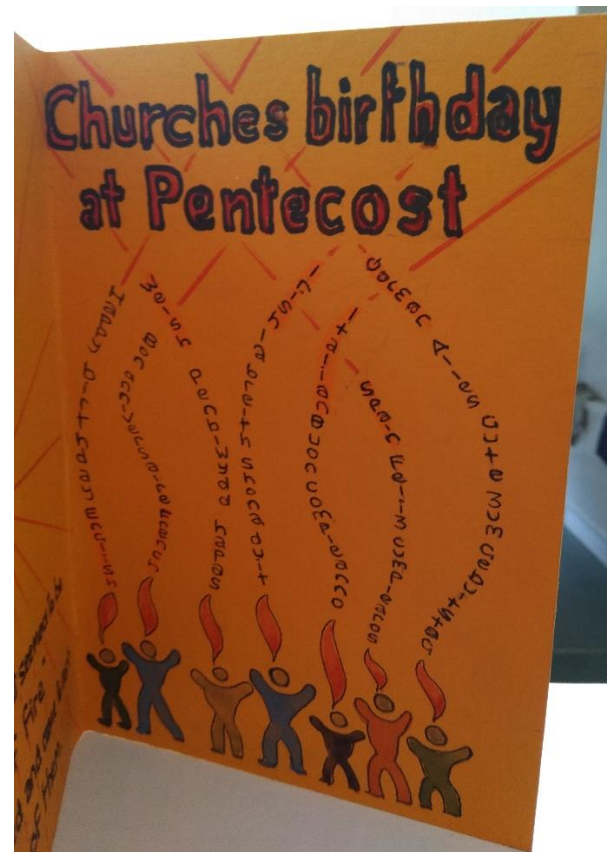
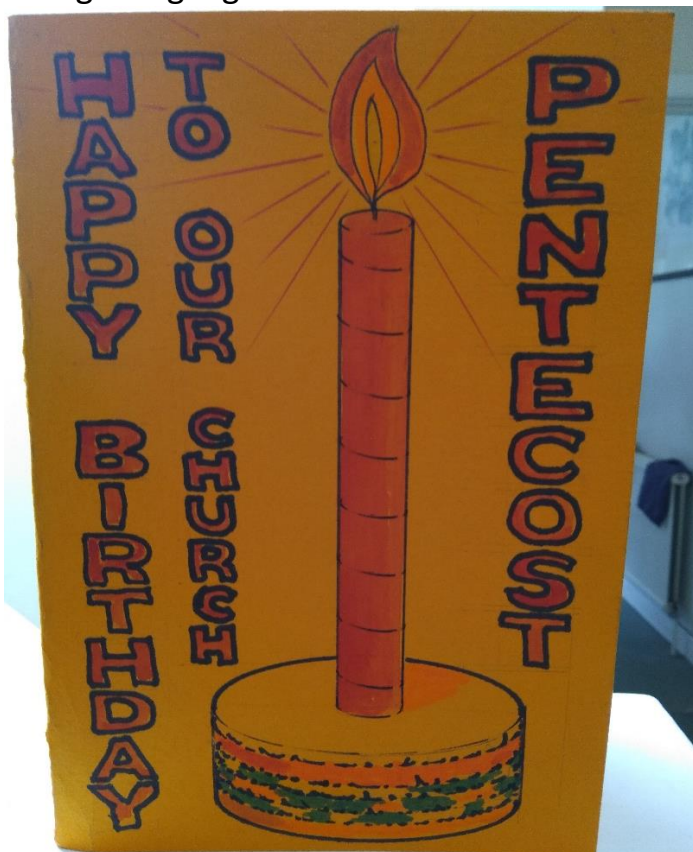
religious leaders considered to be unsuitable. Holy Communion commemorates the last supper, which Jesus shared with his disciples. Before Jesus, much of the worship in the Old Testament involved feasting, and when people were especially thankful to God they showed that by gathering to celebrate with food and drink. From Monday we'll be able to gather with others indoors again – when you do so, say a prayer of thanks to God before eating, recognising how he's been with us through the pandemic.

3. Birthday card

You will need: A4 sheet of paper or card, pens

Fold the card in half to form a greeting card. Draw a birthday cake on the front with a candle (or just a candle), with the words 'Happy Birthday'. Look up how to say Happy Birthday in other languages and write these inside.

Talk about: How tongue-shaped flames appeared above the disciples' heads. The flames are associated with the ability to speak miraculously in unlearned foreign languages.



4. Wind spinners

You will need: a cardboard circle (approx. 10cm in diameter or more), felt tip pens or crayons, string (1m or more)

Decorate both sides of the card circle (concentric circle patterns in bright colours work well). Make two holes about a cm apart in the centre of the circle. Thread the string through the holes and tie to make a loop.



Twist the string while holding both ends of the loop, with the circle in the centre, twenty times or more. When you pull the two ends of the loop away from each other, the circle spins round.

Talk about how you can hear a sound like the rushing wind of Pentecost when the circle spins round. Some people think of the wind at Pentecost as the breath of God, which blew very suddenly and gave the disciples energy for living God's way. Today we might gain energy for living in God's way by praying and reading the Bible. The Holy Spirit appears in many ways, not just in terms of the wind, fire and speaking in foreign languages at Pentecost. Make sure you don't overlook the gentler aspects of the Holy Spirit's character.

5. Balloon race

You will need (for two people to race): 2 A4 sheets of paper, pens (and maybe stickers), sticky tape, 2 balloons.

Decorate your own sheet of paper and then fold it concertina-style. Fasten one end of the fan with sticky tape, so that it forms a handle.

Blow up your balloon and use your fan to make the balloon move along the floor (without touching the balloon). Have a race with a member of your family to see who can move their balloon the fastest.

Talk about: how your fan can be used to remind you of the feel of the wind at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is a bit like this wind – you can't see it, but many people say they can feel it. What do you think the Holy Spirit feels like?



Song: Happy Birthday

Wish the church a happy birthday with the obvious song. I hope that they sing this at the Messtival on Saturday 22nd May.

They might also sing 'Spirit Burning', to the tune of 'London's Burning':

Spirit burning, Spirit burning
Fell upon them, fell upon them

Praise God, praise God
God is with us, God is with us

Spirit burning, Spirit burning
Falls upon us, falls upon us
On fire, good news
Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord

Spirit blazing, Spirit blowing
Like a great fire, like a great wind
Sing praise, sing praise
God is with us, God is with us

Prayer

Blow some bubbles. Jesus loves us to be filled with the Holy Spirit, just as our breath fills the bubble mixture.

Dear Lord, we celebrate the gift of your Holy Spirit to the church.

Fill us with your Spirit as we seek to serve you.

Fill us with your Spirit as you filled your followers early one morning in Jerusalem over 2,000 years ago.

Fill us with your Spirit that we might be your voices, your hands and your presence in the world, and draw others into your kingdom.

Come Holy Spirit and breathe on us, speak to us, inspire us and work through us today and all days.

Amen.

Messy Grace:

This is a prayer that we say at Messy Church to ask God to always be with us, as we try to keep connected to Jesus.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (hold out hands as if expecting a present)

And the love of God (put your hands on your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (hold hands)

Be with us all (raise arms)

Amen (drop hands)

Next date: Friday 11th June 2021

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