



Happy birthday, church!

It's party time, so join in with the celebrations and mark the birthday of the church, 'Thy Kingdom Come' and the Messy Church [Messtival](#) on 22 May at 3.00 pm on [YouTube!](#) Share pictures of your marvellous creations using [#messtival21](#).

Activity time

1 Bunting



You will need: paper/card/material; string/ribbon/washing line; scissors

Make some flags out of paper, card or material and decorate them. Fasten them together and tie them up in your house or garden to prepare to celebrate Pentecost and the Messy Church Messtival.

Talk about whether you think Jesus enjoyed a party. Think about the story of Jesus at the wedding feast and how he turns water into wine so that the party can continue! There is the story of his visit to Martha, Mary and Lazarus. We are told he often ate with people that the religious leaders considered to be unsuitable. The Eucharist commemorates the last supper, which Jesus shared with his disciples when he told them to always remember him when they broke bread and drank wine. 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.

The Messy Church Messtival will be held on Saturday 22 May to celebrate Messy Church. This is the day before we celebrate Pentecost, which is the birthday of the church. We therefore have a great excuse for a party – I am sure Jesus would approve! I am sure he did not want us to be solemn and miserable, just as 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 if some of our activities work properly it is a miracle!

2 Mitres



You will need: roll of gold metallic gift wrap (or any sort of paper); scissors

[Click here](#) to find instructions online on how to make an origami mitre. You can also [click here](#) to view a video. You can scale this up to make a full-size mitre that can be worn by using a larger piece of paper. A piece of paper about 30" x 24" will make one that will fit most children.

Talk about what the mitre represents. One idea is that it symbolises the tongues of fire that descend on the heads of the apostles. The tongue-shaped flames above the disciples' heads symbolised the ability to speak miraculously in unlearned foreign languages.

3 Balloon rockets



You will need: balloons; sticky tape; card; scissors; paper straws (or paper that can be rolled into a narrow straw shape and stuck together with tape)

Cut the lip off the balloon and tape it to the end of the straw to the end of the straw – this must be done carefully to ensure that you can blow up the balloon using the straw. Cut some flights from a piece of card and tape them to the end of the straw, but again make sure you can still blow up the balloon through the straw. You are then ready for a test flight – blow up the balloon through the straw, pinch the

end of the straw to stop the air escaping and then let go to launch it. For the best results, use large balloons and large (smoothie) drinking straws.

For more detailed instructions, [click here](#). For a video tutorial, [click here](#).

Talk about how you need to keep blowing the balloon up for the rocket to work. Some people think of the Holy Spirit of the breath of God. Do you ever feel like the empty balloon? How do we get our energy for living God's way? Some followers of Jesus need to keep on being filled up by praying and reading the Bible. Many people only think of the Holy Spirit in terms of the wind, fire and speaking in foreign languages at Pentecost, and therefore overlook the gentler aspects of the Holy Spirit's character. The image of the fruit of God's Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23) – is something to be built into everyday life and demonstrates a complementary aspect of the Holy Spirit's work alongside the more dramatic images of Pentecost.

4 Bottle rockets



You will need: empty plastic bottles; card/paper; sticky tape; scissors; sticky tack or Play-Doh; paper straws (or paper that can be rolled into a narrow straw shape and stuck together with tape)

Carefully cut a small hole on the bottle top that you can slide the straw into. If you make it too big, you can seal any gaps with a piece of sticky tack or Play-Doh. Make a small paper or cardboard rocket. First make a tube which will fit just over the straw and seal one end of it so that it is airtight. You can then decorate the tube to make it look like a rocket by adding fins and a nosecone. Slide the completed rocket over the end of the straw and then squeeze the bottle to launch the rocket. You should get several launches out of the bottle before it eventually splits!

Talk about the story of the Ascension and also the science behind rockets. The balloon and bottle rockets are examples of turning 'potential' energy into 'kinetic' energy, the energy of motion. When you blow up the balloon, the expanding elastic material of the balloon stores the energy you are producing by blowing into it. The energy stored in the balloon is called potential energy. In the same way, the air in the bottle is potential energy. When you launch the rockets, this stored energy is converted into kinetic energy as the air pushes rocket. The force exerted by the expelled air is called 'thrust'. This is the same way a real rocket works, where the thrust is produced by burning fuel to make hot gases which are pushed out of the bottom of the rocket, making it travel up into space.

5 Languages

You will need: pieces of card; pens

Write the word 'PEACE' on a piece of card, then look up the word in other languages and write them on other pieces of card. Share out the cards and then read out the cards at the same time so you are all speaking in different languages. Here are a few to start:

1. **Afrikaans:** Vrede
2. **Aragonese:** Patz
3. **Arabic:** سلام (*salām*)
4. **Haitian Creole (Kreyol):** Lapè
5. **Aymara:** Hacaña
6. **Bulgarian:** Мир (*mir*)
7. **Bengali:** শান্তি (*śānti*)
8. **Tibetan:** ཞིབདེ (*zhi-bde*)
9. **Catalan:** Pau
10. **Chamorro:** Minaggen
11. **Cherokee:** Ⴀႃႃ (*dohiyi*)
12. **Welsh:** heddwch
13. **Danish:** Fred
14. **German:** Friede
15. **Greek:** Ειρήνη (*irini*)
16. **Esperanto:** Paco
17. **Spanish:** Paz
18. **Basque:** Baké
19. **Persian/Farsi:** صلح (*solh*)
20. **French:** Paix
21. **Irish:** Síocháin
22. **Manx:** Shee
23. **Hebrew:** שלום (*shalom*)
24. **Hindi:** शांति (*śānti*)
25. **Igbo:** Udo
26. **Icelandic:** Friður
27. **Japanese:** 平和 (*heiwa*)
28. **Maori:** Rangima'arie, Nohopuku, Rongo
29. **Dutch:** Vrede
30. **Polish:** Pokój
31. **Russian:** Мир (*mir*)
32. **Scots:** Pace
33. **Thai:** สันติภาพ (*santipap*)
34. **Turkish:** Barış
35. **Italian:** Pace

Talk about why you think the Holy Spirit enabled the disciples to speak in different languages. After this momentous day, the good news of Jesus spread all around the world. The story of Paul's missionary journeys and how he spreads the word and establishes churches is told in the Acts of the Apostles. From the mid-30s to the mid-50s AD he founded several Christian communities in Asia Minor and Europe.

6 Kites



You will need: pieces of card; art materials; string; tissue paper; scissors

Cut out a kite shape from a piece of card and decorate it. Cut strips of tissue paper and attach to the bottom of the kite to form a tail. Fasten a piece of string to it. Then go outside and fly it! At the same

time, why not entertain the others by singing ‘Let’s go fly a kite’ from *Mary Poppins* (dodgy cockney accent optional)?

Talk about how the coming of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples was an experience they could only describe with the images of fire and wind. How could God’s Holy Spirit be like the wind? Jesus spoke of the unpredictability of the Holy Spirit in John 3:8, and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost empowered the disciples in ways beyond their wildest imaginings.

Celebration

You are warmly invited to join the Biggest Messy Church Ever on [YouTube](#) at 3.00 pm on Saturday 22 May! 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! If you can’t join us, do watch it later.

Here’s a celebration if you really can’t be with us (but we hope you can!).

Pentecost is a birthday celebration for the church. Read [Acts 2:1–13](#):

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

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.

At this time of the year we are also celebrating ‘Thy Kingdom Come’. This is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension (13 May) and Pentecost (23 May) for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. What started out as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in 2016 to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. For further details and resources, [visit their website](#).

And finally we are also having a Messy Church Festival this month called [MESSTIVAL!](#)

Story

One person narrates the story while all the others act it out.

With the coming of the Holy Spirit – made unmistakably evident by inward transformation and signs all can see and hear – the waiting is over. The apostles and disciples become the new church, full of life and power, as different from their former fearful selves as can be imagined.

Narrator Oh dear. Something is wrong. *(Run on the spot, full of energy at first but then getting tired.)*

Narrator Worn out? *(Walk round like clockwork toys, full of energy at first, but gradually slowing down and stopping in funny postures.)*

Narrator Out of juice? *(Hold hands and pass along an electric shock that dwindles and stops, leaving the actors drooping.)*

Narrator Out of puff? *(Turn into windmills whirring that fizzle to a standstill.)*

Narrator Lost the spark? *(Explode like fireworks, then fizzle out.)*

Narrator Oh dear. Something needs to change. Jesus' disciples were waiting, quietly, calmly, praying to God when suddenly there was a sound like a roaring wind. *(Look up in astonishment.)*

Narrator And something like flames appeared over their heads. *(Point in surprise.)*

Narrator And all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. *(Jump up.)*

Narrator What was run down was charged. *(Run on the spot.)*

Narrator What was worn out became new. *(Walk round like clockwork toys.)*

Narrator What was out of juice filled up to overflowing. *(Hold hands and pass along an electric shock.)*

Narrator What was out of puff got the wind in its sails. *(Turn into windmills.)*

Narrator What was dead and cold exploded into life. *(Explode like fireworks.)*

Narrator Everything's changed!

Songs

Sing 'Happy Birthday' to the church.

To the tune of 'London's Burning' sing (in a round if you are really good at singing!):

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

Here are some suggested re-written words for 'All over the world' (Junior Praise)

All over the world, God's Spirit is moving
All over the world, as the Bible said it would be
All over the world, there's a birthday celebration
Of the power of the Lord, like a wind you cannot see

All over the church, God's Spirit is moving
All over the church, as the Bible said it would be
All over the church, there's a birthday celebration
Of the power of the Lord, like a fire that's burning free

Prayers

Bubble prayers: Blow some bubbles and say, 'Jesus loves us to be filled with the Holy Spirit, just as Adam as filled with the breath of God (Genesis 2:7). The Holy Spirit fills us just as our breath fills the bubble mixture.'

Dear Lord, we meet here to 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, hands and 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

You could finish by saying the [Lord's Prayer](#) and the [Messy Grace](#).

Mealtime

All your favourite party foods!

#messtival21