



## Messy Church at home

### 24 May 2020 - On Fire!

Though we won't be able to meet together as a Messy Church on 24 May, how about trying Messy Church at home?

#### **Read**

#### **The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost - Acts 2:1-11**

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup>When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. <sup>7</sup>Utterly amazed, they asked: 'Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?' <sup>8</sup>Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup>(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs – we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!'

#### **Activities**

Here are some activities to try, using bits and pieces you might have at home. If you can't find the exact same items, what things could you use instead?

#### **Paint splatter flames**

You will need:

- Paper and pens
- Orange and yellow paint
- Drinking straw, or any thin tube you can blow through (a tightly rolled piece of card also works)

Draw a person's head at the bottom of a piece of paper, then put a dollop of paint at the top of their head. Use the straw to blow the paint up the page to look like flames. Use the other colour of paint and do the same again allowing the colours to mix together.

As you create your paint splatter flames, think about the first Christians in the bible reading seeing the Holy Spirit of Jesus come to them as 'something like flames' resting on each other's heads, and hearing the sound of a mighty wind in the room where they were praying. What noise did your breath make as you blew down the straw? What do you think the wind and flames of the Holy Spirit sounded like to the disciples?



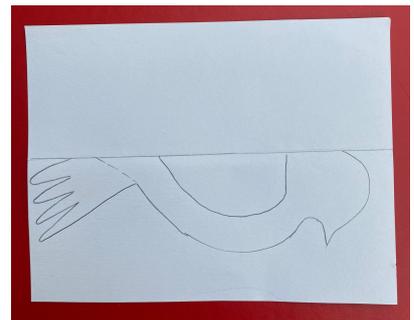
### **Peace be with you dove**

You will need:

- Paper/card and pens
- Scissors

You could simply draw a dove shape and cut it out, or you could follow the instructions below and see how you get on!

1. Draw a line across your paper and draw half a dove shape on one side of it as shown.
2. Fold your paper in half down the centre line and cut round the dove outline.
3. Fold the tail outwards as shown (use the dotted line as a guide for the fold).



4. Cut round the wings as shown, including cutting up the centre line, but be careful not to cut the wing line nearest the head, otherwise the whole wing will come off.
5. Gently pull the wings out slightly and sit the dove as shown.



When you've created your dove, look up some words for peace in different languages and write them on. You can find some [suggestions here](#), or try typing the word 'peace' into [Google translate](#) and choosing some different languages.



The dove is another symbol of the Holy Spirit. As you're making your dove, think about the bible story and how amazing it must have been on that day to suddenly be able to speak in, and understand, other languages. It must have brought people together in a new and different way.

### **Pentecost celebration bunting**

You will need:

- Paper or card (different colours if you've got it)
- Pens
- String/ribbon
- Glue and scissors

Draw a triangle shape and cut it out, use this first triangle as a template to draw round and cut out a few more triangles. Use different coloured paper or card if you've got it - flame colours, such as yellow, orange and red would be good.

Decorate each triangle with flames - you could draw them, or cut out different coloured card shapes and stick them on.

Cut a length of string or ribbon. Fold over a small section along the top of all your triangles to make a sort of flap, and line them up face down. Using the folds as a guide, line your string up along your triangles and stick down the flaps over the string with glue, so that the string holds all the triangles together.



Hold up either end of your string and you'll have a line of Pentecost flame bunting to hang up.

While you make your bunting, think about some of the times when you might put up bunting for a party or a celebration, maybe a birthday party, or perhaps a big commemoration such as the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day recently. At this time of year, we celebrate the birthday of the church. Think about the excitement of the first Christians as the Holy Spirit came to them.

### **Reflect**

How did Jesus' disciples in the story of Pentecost know that the Holy Spirit was with them?

**Wind** - we read that there was a 'sound like the blowing of a violent wind'. At Pentecost, it's like God is breathing on us and making us into his new creation.

**Fire** - we read that 'they saw what seemed to be tongues of fire'. Flames burn brightly and give us warmth and light. The light of the Holy Spirit guides us and tells us which way God wants us to go.

**Language** - we read that the disciples 'began to speak in other tongues'. Though we all speak in different languages, the Holy Spirit brings people of different races together.

### **Learn a new song**

Don't forget to keep singing Jesus' love is very wonderful.

Try learning this lovely song about the Holy Spirit - [Peace like a river](#).

Peace like a river,  
Love like a mountain,  
The wind of your spirit is blowing everywhere.  
Joy like a fountain,  
Healing spring of life,  
Come Holy Spirit, let your fire fall.

## **Pray**

Even if you didn't learn the tune to Peace like a river, you might like to say the words of the song a bit like a prayer welcoming the Holy Spirit.

You might also like to say The Lord's Prayer. And perhaps you'd like to finish with Messy Grace - can you remember the actions we do when we say it? Here's a reminder...

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out your hands in front of you)

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

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)

Be with us all now and for ever. Amen (Raise hands together on the word 'Amen' and shout loudly!)

**Look after yourselves and stay well and safe.**