



## Messy Church at home

Sunday 23 May 2021

Happy birthday church!

While the pandemic is ongoing, we are still unable to meet together as a Messy Church, so for the time being, how about trying Messy Church at home? Try the activities, using bits and pieces you might have at home. If you can't find the exact same items, what things could you use instead?

### **Read: Acts 2:1-13 (International Children's Bible)**

#### **The coming of the Holy Spirit**

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>Suddenly a noise came from heaven. It sounded like a strong wind blowing. This noise filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>They saw something that looked like flames of fire. The flames were separated and stood over each person there. <sup>4</sup>They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak different languages. The Holy Spirit was giving them the power to speak these languages. <sup>5</sup>There were some religious Jews staying in Jerusalem who were from every country in the world. <sup>6</sup>When they heard this noise, a crowd came together. They were all surprised, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. <sup>7</sup>They were completely amazed at this. They said, "Look! Aren't all these men that we hear speaking from Galilee?" <sup>8</sup>But each of us hears them in his own language. How is this possible? We are from different places: <sup>9</sup>Parthia, Media, Elam, Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, the areas of Libya near Cyrene, Rome <sup>11</sup>(both Jews and those who had become Jews), Crete and Arabia. But we hear these men telling in our own languages about the great things God has done!" <sup>12</sup>They were all amazed and confused. They asked each other, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup>But others were making fun of them, saying, "They have had too much wine."

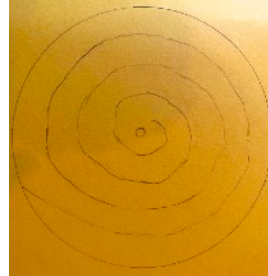
### **Activities**

#### **Whirligig wind spinner**

You will need:

- Card
- Scissors
- Pencil and pens
- Ribbon or string
- Anything else you can find to decorate your spinner with

Find something circular to draw round like a bowl or plate, or use a pair of compasses if you have them. Draw a circle on the card. Then carefully draw a continuous spiral from the outside inwards to the centre. Draw a small circle in the centre.



Carefully cut round the outside of the circle. Once you've done that, gradually cut round the spiral until you get to the end in the centre.



Decorate your spinner how you like. Punch a hole in the centre, thread your ribbon or string through and tie it securely so you can hang it up.



In the story, we read that the coming of the Holy Spirit was like a strong wind blowing. You can't see wind, so how do you know it's there? What happens when you blow your spinner? If you hang it up in a doorway or a window, you'll be able to see it catching a draft or a breeze if the window is open. We can't necessarily see the Holy Spirit, but, like the wind, we can feel it.



### **Fiery flame fork painting**

You will need:

- Dark coloured card or paper
- Orange, yellow and red paint
- Fork

Blob some patches of yellow, orange and red paint randomly on to your dark coloured card or paper. Take your fork and make patterns in the paint to look like flames.

We read in the story that the disciples "saw something that looked like flames of fire" and that "the flames were separated and stood over each person there". How do you think the disciples must have felt suddenly seeing fiery flames over each other's heads? We learn

from a young age that fire can be dangerous, that getting too close to it can burn us and we should treat it with care. While fire can be frightening, it also does important things like keeping us warm and providing light. God sent his Holy Spirit as his power among us, but he also sent it to comfort, protect and guide us.

### **The language of peace quiz**

You will need:

- Quiz sheet below
- Pencil or pen

Try the language of peace quiz below. Match up the country flags with the correct word for peace in the language of that country.

While you're doing the quiz, try saying the words for peace out loud. Do the words feel strange to say? Have you tried learning any languages? If so, you'll know that it can be quite tricky. We read in the story that the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and could suddenly speak in different languages that they had never learnt before. Why do you think God enabled the disciples to speak in different languages? After this momentous day, the good news of Jesus started to spread all around the world.

### **Flames of pentecost cupcakes**

You will need:

- Cupcake ingredients (or you could buy some ready-made cupcakes and icing)
- Muffin tin and cake cases
- Scales, mixing bowl, knife, spoon
- Freestanding or handheld mixer if you have one (otherwise, a whisk or spoon will work just as well - you'll just need a bit more elbow grease!)

#### **Ingredients**

For the cakes (makes 12):

100g plain flour

20g cocoa powder

140g caster sugar

1½ teaspoons baking powder

Pinch of salt

40g butter (at room temperature)

120ml milk

1 egg

¼ teaspoon vanilla extract

For the topping:

150g icing sugar

50g butter (at room temperature)

20g cocoa powder

20ml milk

Strawberries

#### **Method**

To make your cupcakes, pre-heat your oven to 170°C (gas 3) and put cake cases into the muffin tin.

1. Measure out your plain flour, cocoa powder, caster sugar, baking powder, salt and butter into a mixing bowl and use your mixer (if you have one) to beat them together until they are combined - this will be quite a sandy consistency.
2. Whisk together the milk, egg and vanilla extract in a jug and then slowly pour about half of it into the flour mixture and beat together to combine. Then pour in the second half and mix that in too. Make sure you scrape any bits from the side, so everything is combined. The mixture should be smooth, without any lumps, but make sure you don't overmix.
3. Spoon the mixture into the cake cases - they should be about two-thirds full - and bake in the oven for 20-25 minutes. You'll know they're baked when the sponge bounces back when you touch it - or if you stick a skewer in gently, it will come out clean.
4. Leave the cupcakes to cool for a couple of minutes in the tin, then take them out and leave them to cool completely (on a wire rack if you have one).
5. While the cupcakes are cooling, make the icing by beating together the icing sugar, butter and cocoa powder (with a mixer if you have one).
6. When the mixture has come together add the milk gradually and continue beating until the icing is really smooth, light and fluffy.
7. When the cakes are completely cool, spoon a dollop of icing on top of each one. Cut the tops off your strawberries and cut them in half lengthways. Finish off your decoration by placing half a strawberry pointing upwards on the top, so it resembles a flame.



While you make and decorate your cakes, think about the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples at Pentecost and how the new church was born that day. Pentecost is a birthday celebration for the church. Before you eat your cakes, you could sing happy birthday to the church.

### **Reflect**

In Acts 1, we read about Jesus being taken up to heaven. He tells his disciples that they should go and wait for a gift from God - the Holy Spirit.

Imagine you are one of the disciples. You've just heard Jesus tell you to go and wait for a gift from God. You wait together with the other disciples, probably praying to God and praising him. You eat your meals together, chatting quietly, expectantly, waiting... and then...

There's a strong, rushing wind in the room and you see flames of fire above everyone's heads and suddenly you're all speaking in totally different languages, previously unknown to you. How astonishing this all must have been - and how wonderful! You realise that everything has changed. God has sent his Holy Spirit to be with you and guide you.

God sends his Holy Spirit to fill us and help us today too. What a great reason to celebrate at Pentecost.

There's a special Messy Church Pentecost celebration online called 'Messtival' on Saturday 22 May at 3pm. Everyone is invited. You can find it on the [Messy Church YouTube channel](#). If you can't make it live, you can always catch up afterwards.

### **Sing**

Remember to keep singing Jesus' love is very wonderful!

You might like to try learning this new song to the tune of 'London's burning'. You could even try it in a round.

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.

### **Pray**

Have a go at some bubble prayers. If you have a pot of bubbles around the house, you could use those. Otherwise, you can create your own bubble mix using washing up liquid and water and you could use biscuit cutters, or bent paper clips as bubble wands. [Here are some good tips for making your own.](#)

Blow some bubbles, watch them float and rise up, and say, "Jesus loves us to be filled with the Holy Spirit, just like our breath fills these bubbles. Come Holy Spirit and fill us - breathe on us, speak to us, inspire us and work through us today and always. Amen."

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!)

## The language of peace quiz

Match the words for peace with the flags of the correct country by drawing a connecting line between them. The answers are on the next page - no peeking!

**Heddwch**



**平和 (heiwa)**



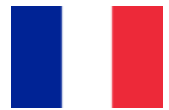
**Friede**



**Ειρήνη (iríni)**



**Vrede**



**สันติภาพ (santipap)**



**Paix**



**Friður**



**Pokój**



**Paz**



## Answers

**Heddwch** - Welsh



平和 (**heiwa**) - Japanese



**Friede** - German



Ειρήνη (**irini**) - Greek



**Vrede** - Dutch



สันติภาพ (**santipap**) - Thai



**Paix** - French



**Friður** - Icelandic



**Pokój** - Polish



**Paz** - Spanish

