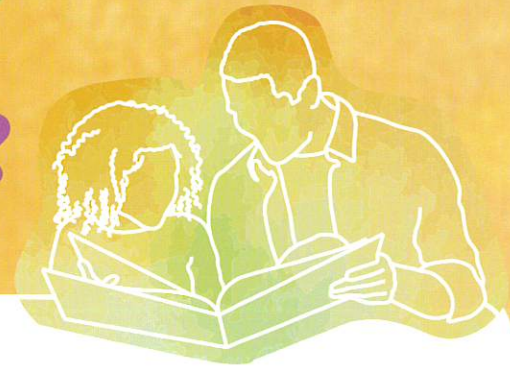


Growing Together

Inspired by the Christian Faith

WHO IS... THE HOLY SPIRIT?

GOD WITHIN US.



Read together

A retelling of Acts 2

My name is Peter and I was there when we first received the Holy Spirit. It was amazing!

It was exactly fifty days after Easter Day, when we thought Jesus was dead, but Mary discovered that he was alive!

Jesus had already returned to God, but he had promised his friends that we would not be on our own - we would be given his Spirit.

So, there we were in Jerusalem waiting, wondering – what would it be like?

Would it come in a jar like oil?

Would it be another person like Jesus?

Would it be like John baptising people?

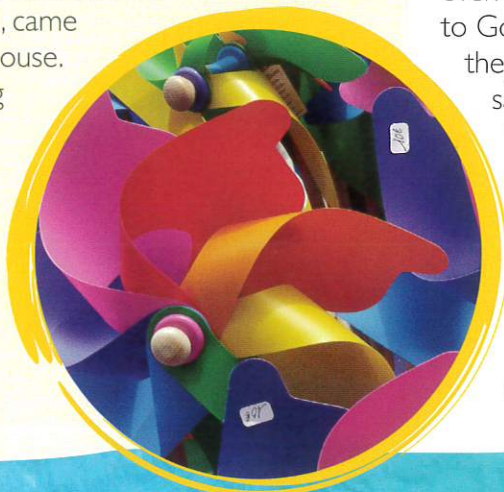
Pentecost was a day to celebrate, a Harvest Festival. Jerusalem had a real party feeling, with people from all over the place coming to celebrate and give thanks to God for good weather and good food.

Jesus' friends - women, children and men - all gathered in one room. To be honest, with all the waiting and wondering, we were getting on each other's nerves a bit.

Suddenly, a sound and force, like an incredibly strong wind, came and filled the whole house.

We all sat up knowing this was unusual and then...

Well, the only way to describe it was that it looked and felt like flames of fire burned above our heads!



As if all that wasn't enough, we all started speaking in different languages, we got really excited and rather noisy.

There were people from sixteen different countries (you can read all their names in the Bible) staying in Jerusalem. They came to see what all the noise was about and were amazed to hear their own languages being spoken by Jesus' disciples and friends.

Can you imagine how it sounded? Excited people speaking lots of different languages, all at the same time, and shouting out praises because an amazing God event was happening. Some of the crowd started making fun of us. They thought we had drunk too much wine and it was making us behave strangely!

I heard what people were saying and I knew that I had to tell them Jesus' story, our story.

I shared how God had come close to us through Jesus to show everyone how to live a life loving God and loving each other. I explained that some of the powerful religious leaders hadn't believed him: they had been angry and afraid and crucified him.

Then I told them about the beautiful mystery of Easter Day when the love and power of God was stronger than the fear and anger of people. Stronger even than death. The people listening felt really close to God because of Jesus. They wanted to know what they could do now. So, I told them that they could say sorry and start to live God's way. I offered to baptise them to show they wanted to wash the harmful things away and invite God's love in to their lives. Pentecost was so special for us – we knew that God had come really close to us. It is amazing for you now as well, because that was just the beginning - the beginning of people really knowing how close God is to us through the Holy Spirit.



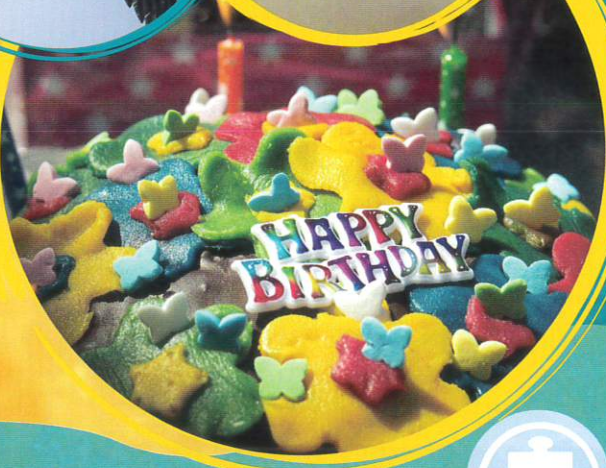
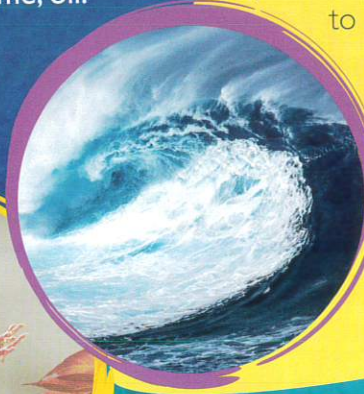
Did you know



The Holy Spirit has lots of symbols which remind us that it is creative, exciting and unpredictable.

They are water, a dove, a wild goose, flame, oil. Some of these symbols are used when people are baptised and confirmed.

If you visit a church have a look for these symbols



Courageous Advocacy



Bravely making the world better

What makes you feel like there's a flame or fire inside you and you need to do something? Maybe speaking to an adult when someone is being bullied or mending broken friendships.

Christians believe the Holy Spirit makes them courageous and they can ask the Holy Spirit to help them bravely make a difference. What would you ask the Holy Spirit to help you with?

Prayer space ideas



Can you find some sparkly or shiny things or things which have flame colours like paper, scarves, soft toys or cushions. Put them together in one place to remind you of the energy and excitement of the Holy Spirit. You could use this space to share with God the things which make you excited or full of energy.

Family Fun



Play Chinese whispers.
Can you try it in another language?

Web Links & Extended Ideas



The day when God made Church by Rebekah Mcleod Hutto is a beautifully illustrated book all about Pentecost.

There are lots of Pentecost ideas at flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2015/08/sharpie-stained-glass-christian-symbols.html and

Create & make



Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came, is sometimes thought of as the Church's birthday. Perhaps you would like to make a birthday cake and decorate it with candles to celebrate. You could make a birthday card for your local church.

Idea for Pre-schoolers



If there's the right opportunity, go walking on a windy day and talk about the wind. Where does it come from? Watch it blow the clouds, trees, grass. How does it feel?

