

St Paul's Egham Hythe

Pentecost Reflection

Adapted from <https://www.messychurch.org.uk/resource/messy-church-home-pentecost>
and <https://ideas.brf.org.uk/power-high> 8/5/20



Read Acts 2:1–13

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

On a large sheet of paper sketch five circles then give each a title:

Harvest God’s Law Wind Fire Languages

As you use your picture to help you pray try not to worry too much about how it looks. Just let it help you to be open to the Holy Spirit – you may be surprised!

Harvest: In the Old Testament Pentecost or Shavuot was a harvest celebration, when people would bring offerings of the first fruit of the crops to God.

- ***In the harvest circle draw different kinds of fruits and grain and vegetables.***

Why do you think God chose a harvest festival to give Jesus’ disciples his Holy Spirit? Read or think about the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22–23.

- ***Draw fruits of the Spirit in a bigger circle around the harvest circle.***

Pray for the fruits of the Spirit to be visible in your life.

God's Law: Shavuot was also the festival to celebrate the time God gave Moses the law – the Ten Commandments.

- *In the God's Law circle, write the 10 commandments – see Exodus chapter 20 if you've forgotten any!*

Why do you think God chose the time they remembered God's law to give Jesus' disciples his Holy Spirit? See Jeremiah 31:33 - God puts his law into our hearts.

- *Draw hearts around the law circle.*

Pray for the Holy Spirit to soften your heart today and make you more like Jesus.

Wind: Jesus' disciples were together in a house in Jerusalem. Suddenly, there was a noise like a strong wind from heaven and it filled the whole house.

- *Fill the wind circle with swirls of colour for the wind.*

Where else do we hear about wind in the Bible? *Think about the breath of God or God's Spirit hovering over the waters of creation.*

- *Draw the world and other symbols of creation around the wind circle.*

Pray for the Holy Spirit, the breath of God to breathe on you and fill you with life anew.

Fire: As well as the wind, something like flames of fire came to rest on each person there.

- *Fill the fire circle with flames.*

Where else do we read of fire in the Bible? Think about the fiery pillar of God that guided the Hebrews across the desert.

- *Draw signposts or arrows round the fiery circle.*

Pray for God's leading through these days showing you his way.

Languages: The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different languages. People who heard them were amazed.

- *Fill the languages circle with words from different parts of the world.*

When in the Bible did languages tear people apart? Think about the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) and how in the Acts reading the Holy Spirit brings different people and races together again.

- *Pray for the world through this pandemic. How might God's Spirit be encouraging us to 'build back better'?*

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, told the crowds who Jesus was, and about 3,000 people started to believe in Jesus that very day.

Pray for 5 people that you would love to come to know Jesus for themselves.