Celebrating Pentecost

Kids Friendly

Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

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INTRODUCTION:


We’ve collated a Pentecost “pick ’n mix” of ideas as well as complete worship services you can use or adapt.

Whether you opt to focus on the birthday celebrations of the church or explore who the Holy Spirit is and what the Holy Spirit does, this is an ideal time both to listen to the Spirit and to celebrate with all ages the special gift of the Holy Spirit. Make this an exciting day and involve everybody!

A Theological Reflection, by Rev Nikki Watkin

When we refer to the work of the Holy Spirit, how do we realistically include the work of the Spirit in our children in an age-appropriate way?

After the Pentecost experience of Acts 2, Peter, in explaining what was happening, concludes with a very clear inclusion of the children:

“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” Acts 2:38-39

The Pentecost story in Scripture is not only a story of our beginnings, but a story of the ongoing empowering we are all invited to enjoy.

In what ways does the Spirit empower the children in your midst?
PENTECOST WORSHIP FOR ALL AGES

“Birthday Celebration” ideas

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PENTECOST EVENTS

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF THE WEB
Pentecost Worship For All Ages

“Birthday Celebration” Ideas

Ask the congregation (ahead of time) to dress in flame colours on the day of Pentecost.

Make a birthday cake to share with your Church. In church light the candles, followed with a Pentecost responsive prayer or call to worship, sing Happy Birthday.

Release helium filled “birthday” balloons in flame colours of red, orange and yellow over peoples’ heads when the scripture from Acts is read. For those with high church ceilings, long ribbons are a good idea so they can be taken home and enjoyed afterwards. (You can purchase helium balloon kits at The Warehouse, but if buying additional balloons, ensure they are made for helium).

Ordinary balloons are a much cheaper and can still have a great impact.

Ribbons on sticks made prior to the day can add to the “sacred” drama. Wave them while singing or on entering and exiting church.

Dance, if you have dancers in your midst. Pentecost is a great time to invite them to share their gift with the congregation.

Use other Languages and invite people in your congregation to share the Lord’s Prayer in their own first language (it sounds amazing when everyone says the Lord’s Prayer at the same time using their own language). You may be surprised to learn just how many languages are known in one congregation or invite different cultures to give a greeting in their own language at the start of the service.

How to say hello in 24 different languages? Click the link: http://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/a-world-of-hellos/
**All Age Worship Services**
Here is an assortment of ideas and complete services for all-age worship at Pentecost.

‘Happy Birthday’ Worship
This all-age worship service from Kohimarama Presbyterian celebrates the birthday of the church with party ideas, breeze balls and a reflection about Holy Spirit holes from the Middle Ages.


The Pentecost “All-Age Worship”
This all-age worship service from Barnabas in Churches celebrates the birthday of the church and shares the story of the day when Jesus fulfilled His promise of sending to his followers the Spirit of God to be with them and in them. Drama, art, sounds, movement and food are just some of the creative elements offered.

http://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/pentecost-all-age-worship/

Responding to the Spirit
This creative all-age service from Kohimarama Presbyterian explores the way the Spirit seeks us to respond in ways that are both empowering and costly.


The Spirit is With Us
This all-age service from Kelly Martin of CPAS focuses on bringing people of all ages together in worship, in a ‘shared experience’. The service begins in a familiar way, and then breaks into six workshops designed to show that the ‘ministry of the word’ can happen in many different forms, using varied media. People of all ages choose their workshops that happen in different parts of the church building. The service culminates in a final act of corporate worship in the main area of the church.


Pentecost: Languages and Learning
This all-age worship service from the Diocese of Gloucester, UK has a more contemplative feel, but offer lots of interactive and sensory activities including candle lighting, stations, stories and more. It is an Anglican style of worship but could be easily adapted to any context.

http://www.going4growth.org.uk/downloads/Gloucester_-_All_Age_Pentecost.pdf
**Pentecost: Images of the Spirit**
This all-age worship service from Kohimarama Presbyterian Church, explores the Holy Spirit since the time of Creation and uses a Godly Play-type story from Barnabas in Churches.


**Pentecost: From Old to New**
These 5 “stations” from an all-age worship service from Kohimarama Presbyterian looks at the way the Holy Spirit challenges us to a whole new way of living. Five tables are set up to which people of all ages can move around and share together. To conclude, there can be a time of sharing what has been learnt.


**St Mark’s Pentecost Service with Local Schools**
Each year Benita Barton and her team of helpers celebrate Pentecost with the children of Pinehill Primary and Liberton Christian Schools in their church. We asked them to share their story and resources with us. For more details contact admin@kidsfriendly.org.nz


**A Pentecost “Messy Church”**
This is a complete Messy Church “service” from Kohimarama Presbyterian that you can use as is, or take ideas from.

Sharing the Pentecost Story

Interactive Stories

God’s Blanket For Us – An All Age Interactive Story

Read the promise given in Joel 2:28a.
Have a large blanket. Spread the blanket on the floor.
Invite the children to stand around the edges of the blanket.
Remind them, God says: “I will pour out My Spirit on all people.” The Holy Spirit is God.
To pour out His Spirit is a way of saying God is with us in a powerful way.
Let’s imagine what that might be like by imagining this blanket is the Holy Spirit.
Ask the children to pick up the blanket and raise it over their heads as they imagine God pouring His Spirit out on all of them.
Now let’s wrap God’s Spirit around us.
Let the children duck under the blanket and pull it tight around them.
God wants you to know that He is as close to you as this blanket. That’s why He gives you His Spirit – so you can be close with Him!

An All-Age “Talk” with Popcorn

Sometimes the best way to think about something as complex as the action of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, is to use a really simple analogy.

Here in my hand I have a few small corn kernels: they are closed, tight and hard. You can fit them in a small space.
They remind me of the first disciples: although they had witnessed the resurrection, encountered the risen Christ and seen first-hand the power of God, they remained small, frightened, unsure and (literally) dis-spirited.

We place them in a small place, a small upper room (put them in the popper) a room where they might re-enact a meal, a ritual of when Jesus was there.

To these small items, we add something powerful: the word of the Holy Spirit: a mighty wind (turn on the popper) and we begin to see a transformation: we cannot see the Holy Spirit herself, but we can see the action she has on the disciples.

(The corn begins to pop) An explosion of energy! A rapid expansion! Beyond the confines of the upper room and into the world, the disciples are no longer tight, hard, withdrawn, but open, fluffy, delightful!

Some are spread far and wide into the world (making a mess on the floor). It transforms the ritual of bread and wine from a simple memorial to a living re-enactment – as the Holy Spirit brings Christ present in our midst and the body and blood of Christ feeds the dynamic, living world of faith.
My dear friends, the Holy Spirit is here with us today, and can transform you in equally dynamic ways; the Holy Spirit can take that inner hardness, reticence, fear and doubt and help you to be open, fulfilled, released into the world to make a difference.

The Psalmist wrote “Taste and see that the Lord is good” (Ps 34:8)
For it is through experience, not deduction or logic that we know this to be true.

Taste and see my dear friends, and you will know that by the work of the Holy Spirit, we are transformed, we are like those first disciples, we are bursting with the energy and the love of God.
(Eat popcorn) We have tasted, and we know. Come Holy Spirit. Come. (Yummy!) Amen.

http://childrensministry.org.au/2017/05/

Interactive Pentecost Reading

Many people, many languages = let’s try and make that sound (practice our greetings. Choose one you can say and say it 3x)
We began the service with people saying greetings in about 8 languages- all nationalities of local school e.g. Kia Ora, Kia Orana, Ni hao, Mālō e lelei, Talofa, guten tag, goolie more)
Listen to the story of Pentecost and every time you hear the word ‘language or languages’ say your greeting 3x.
Jerusalem was always bustling on the day of Pentecost. People came from all over Judah and many countries around Judah to celebrate this special festival. Standing in the market place provided an amazing sight. All shapes and sizes of people walked by, eating different foods, speaking their own languages.
Peter and the rest of Jesus followers were in Jerusalem too. Before Jesus left them and went back to heaven he had told them to go to Jerusalem and wait for a special gift- the Holy Spirit. So there they were and this is what happened....
Acts 2:1-21 A Sound Like a Strong Wind (The Message)
1-4 When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.
5-11 There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own language being spoken, they were amazed. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, "Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our different languages?"
Listen to what they are saying- they are describing God’s mighty works in all of our languages!"
12 Their heads were spinning; they couldn't make head or tail of any of it. They talked back and forth, confused: "What's going on here?"
13 Others joked, "They're drunk on cheap wine."
Peter Speaks Up
14-21 That's when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out boldly: "Fellow Jews, and all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. These people haven't had time to get drunk—it's only nine o'clock in the morning. This is
what the prophet Joel announced would happen:

_In the Last Days,"God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit  
on every kind of people:  
Your sons will prophesy,  
also your daughters;  
Your young men will see visions,  
your old men dream dreams.  
When the time comes,  
I'll pour out my Spirit  
On those who serve me, men and women both,  
and they'll prophesy.....  
And whoever calls out for help  
to me, God, will be saved."_

Peter said many more words to the crowd – to all those people who spoke different languages – He told them about Jesus and the promise of the Holy Spirit. The people listened carefully and 3000 people that day joined the followers of Jesus.

It was an amazing Pentecost day!

**The Story of Pentecost Sunday**

Here is a wonderful video illustrated and presented by Kiwi kids Siena, Zara, Rebecca, Natasha and Bridget.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5JUjb9LJ90](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5JUjb9LJ90)
Pentecost Story for Preschoolers

This interactive short story has actions and repetition that makes it perfect for younger children.


Object lesson: God the Holy Spirit Is Everywhere

“How can the Holy Spirit be a person in the Trinity and yet He cannot be seen and does not take up any space like people do?”

If science is your “bent” try this object lesson by Terry Delaney (www.ministry-to-children.com) that demonstrates one aspect of the doctrine of the Trinity. Many children begin to get curious about the Holy Spirit as they grow older. They do not think it is logical to be a person and not be seen while still alive.

Materials Needed: Paper towel, 2 Large cups or glasses, tub of water (while a tub is preferable, a bucket will work).

Set-up: Ask the kids if they can think of anything they use on a daily basis that would have these same qualities. Allow them to give some answers. Some of your older children may answer correctly, but many will not think along the lines. (The correct answer is Oxygen but don’t say it just yet!).

The Experiment: Fill the tub with water. Take a paper towel and put it in the cup. Ask the children what will happen if you put the cup in the water—will the towel get wet or will it stay dry?... Presumably, the kids will be giving both answers—wet and dry. First show them how the paper towel stays dry by placing the cup perpendicularly in the water. The air in the cup will force the water to go around the cup keeping the paper towel dry. As you are showing the dry paper towel, explain to the children that we don’t see the air and that everything in the room is surrounded by the air but it would appear that the air does not take up any space. However, the air took up space in the cup so that water could not get it.

The Science is that the pocket of air in the cup cannot escape and therefore keeping the water from entering the cup.

The Explanation: Even though we can’t see the air, we can see that it has properties that can be seen. This is true of the Holy Spirit. Those who have the invisible Holy Spirit living inside them will have visible evidence. At this point, take the opportunity to share Gal. 5:22-25.

See more at: www.ministry-to-children.com/god-the-holy-spirit-is-everywhere-object-lesson-for-children/#sthash.FCvQ1R6g.dpuf
Pentecost Play: The Coming of the Holy Spirit
If you have a group of people who are keen to perform a drama, here is a play by Rosalie Hudson, Melbourne, based on Acts 2:1-13, in which a first century Jerusalem news reporter is eager to cover the Pentecost story.

http://thebillabong.info/lectionary/ideas-for-pentecost/the-coming-of-the-holy-spirit/

Holy Spirit Holes
The Dark Ages, (c5th to early c11th) was a time of cultural bleakness, after Rome had been sacked and its empire destroyed. It was essentially a six hundred year Great Depression, when food was scarce and civilization hung by a thread. The one bright spot in the culture was the local cathedral, where thousands of people were employed. Even in small towns, these cathedrals became the cultural, social and spiritual centres of life. Ironically, it was these terrible times that produced some of the most beautiful murals, sculpture, stained-glass windows, and pageantry, which, in a time of great illiteracy, helped to teach the stories of the faith. The cathedral was the community centre; the local courthouse; the safe place for travellers to lodge and the local marketplace outside. The presence of a large, busy cathedral in the centre of a village also guaranteed a relatively stable economic base.

Pentecost was one of the great holidays celebrated in these cathedrals. In fact, many of them were built with special consideration for this great festival. The great domed and vaulted ceilings, so richly painted, disguised a number of trap doors that were used expressly for Pentecost celebrations. During worship, some poor parishioners would be drafted to climb up on the roof. At the appropriate moment during the liturgy, they would release live doves through the trap doors, through the painted skies and clouds of the cathedral ceiling. These doves would come swooping down on the congregation as living symbols of the presence of the Holy Spirit. At the same moment, the choir boys were encouraged to make whooshing and drumming sounds, like a holy windstorm. Then, finally, as the doves swooped and the winds rose, the trap doors were again opened, and bushels of rose petals were showered upon the congregation, symbolising tongues of flame falling upon the faithful below.

The holes through which this was done were called, "Holy Spirit holes". You can imagine the wonder and delight that an event like that would bring into the hard, drab lives of those medieval Christians!

Today, we don’t have any holes in the ceiling like that. The sense of drama they had back then when people could not read and so the stories had to be told in ways that would not be forgotten has been lost in our often staid telling of the Pentecost story.

Yet surely today, as much as back then, we need those "Holy Spirit holes". Not the actual holes in the ceilings, but openings and conduits through which God’s Spirit can enter, permeate and revitalise people who are caught up in our individualistic culture. As Christians we are called to serve as "Holy Spirit holes" – witnessing to the power of God’s love in this world and willing to be conduits of God’s grace in the world.

Then people, just as at the time of Pentecost, will hear the Gospel in the language they understand. That is what changes people, communities and the world.

Adapted from http://www.stjohns-online.org/pentecostCOT.html
Pentecost Slide Show: Spirit Fall On Me
Creator Jonathon offers us his PowerPoint slide show with great images and quite “ethnic” music for use saying: “I came up with the song and then put together the slides from various pictures portraying Pentecost, flames or wind. Enjoy!” This could be used while the offering is taken up.
www.stphransus.blogspot.co.nz/2007/05/spirit-fall-on-me-pentecost-and-worship.html
Song to the Holy Spirit by James K Baxter

This poem could be done as a responsive prayer. Project the words on PowerPoint slides with images to match. Invite different readers (including children and young people) to read the images with the whole congregation saying:

Lord, Holy Spirit.

Lord, Holy Spirit
You blow like the wind in a thousand paddocks
Inside and outside the fences
You blow where you wish to blow
Lord, Holy Spirit
You are the sun who shines on the little plant
You warm him gently, you give him life
You raise him up to become a tree with many leaves
Lord, Holy Spirit
You are the mother eagle with her young
Holding them in peace under your feathers
On the highest mountain you have built your nest
Above the valley, above the storms of the world
Where no hunter ever comes
Lord, Holy Spirit
You are the bright cloud in whom we hide
In whom we know already that the battle has been won
You bring us to our Brother Jesus
To rest our heads upon his shoulder
Lord, Holy Spirit
You are the kind fire who does not cease to burn
Consuming us with flames of love and peace
Driving us out like sparks to set the world on fire
Lord, Holy Spirit
In the love of friends you are building a new house,
Heaven is with us when you are with us
You are singing your song in the hearts of the poor
Guide us, wound us, heal us. Bring us to the Father
“Pentecost” by Malcolm Guite
Today we feel the wind beneath our wings
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays
Today the church draws breath at last and sings
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.
This is the feast of fire, air, and water
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.
The earth herself awakens to her maker
And is translated out of death to birth.
The right words come today in their right order
And every word spells freedom and release
Today the gospel crosses every border
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace
Today the lost are found in His translation.
Whose mother-tongue is Love, in every nation.

Pentecost Call To Worship by Benita Barton, St Mark’s Presbyterian Church, Dunedin
Leader: Thank you God for the changes that this season of winter brings here in Otago.
People: For the driving clouds and the open skies;
Leader: For the salt air from the harbour;
People: For the everlasting hills.
Leader: We thank you for your Spirit;
People: That comes like the wind from the harbour and the hills.
Leader: Invisible, unmistakable, full of power
People: Blowing through the streets of Dunedin
Leader: Thank you for Pentecost
People: Thank you for your Spirit in Jesus
Leader: Thank you for your Spirit in the early church
People: Thank you for your Spirit present with us here today, Amen.

Pentecost Benediction - © Wood Lake Publishing, June 12, 2011
One: As we go now to our daily living,
may the Spirit come to us in new and exciting ways:
All: as a gentle whisper, in dreams, in silence, in prayer;
One: as a strong wind, in lives filled with love and compassion;
All: as a mighty storm, in exuberant hearts of joy.
One: So let us go now,
filled with the Spirit all our days!
All: Amen!

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Interactive Pentecost Flames Prayer
“New Ideas for Creative Prayer” by Judith Merrell (Scripture Union)
This is a great interactive prayer idea that enables all ages to pray.

‘Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there’ Acts 2:3

You will need: orange, red and yellow coloured paper; scissors; pencils; black backing paper.

Explain to your group that when the Holy Spirit first arrived it looked as if flames of fire were reaching out and touching people, but flames which filled everyone present with the warmth of God’s love and fired up their hearts with courage and enthusiasm.

God sent his Holy Spirit to help all that believe in him to live as Christians. The Holy Spirit can still help people today to praise and pray, to read and understand the Bible and to share their faith with others. The Spirit lives in us as our own special helper.

Give out sheets of red, yellow or orange paper and encourage everyone to draw around their hand and cut it out. They can then write a short prayer thanking God for the gift of his special helper. When everyone has finished, stick the hands onto black background paper to make them look like one huge flame.

When?
These questions/reflections could be allocated to different people (all ages) in the congregation to pose as a prayer or call to worship.

*When was the last time*
that we heard the wind of your Spirit
roar through this place?
*When was the last time*
your fire lit up this room?
*When was the last time*
we took you at your word
and met together in expectation
of your Spirit filling this place
and these lives with your Glory and Power?
*Lord, you challenge us with Pentecost.*
*Do we believe that this*
was a once in eternity experience
never to be repeated?
*That the Holy Spirit was poured out*
on your followers for a single purpose
and ended His work at that instant?
*If so, then maybe that is why the Church*
seems so powerless in this age
helpless when faced with the needs
both spiritual and physical
that we see in the world.
*Lord, as we meet together*
and celebrate once again
the memory of that first Pentecost
may it be for us as it was then
a moment of empowerment
an awareness of your Glory in this dark world
a life changing experience.

Lighting the candle of Love

This could be a memorable way to start your service with a child “lighting the candle” and allocated readers (all ages) leading the prayer.

We light a candle
and enjoy the flickering light
the fragrance
and warmth it creates.
But without the spark that ignites
there will be no flame
Without the wax
the source of power
the wick will not burn
Without the flame
there will be no fragrance
no warmth, no light.
And so with us, Lord
You are the catalyst that ignites us
and the fuel that sustains us
You fill us with your fragrance
as you enter our lives.
You empower us
to carry your flame in our hearts
To be the fragrance, warmth
and light of your love
in this dark world.

http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Pentecost.htm
**Pentecost Prayer Stations**

These simple prayer stations are based around symbols of the Spirit—oil, water, fire and wind. To set up for a Pentecost service with all ages, you might just have one or two instead of all four. The 'ingredients' are included with each activity. It can help to have music playing during the prayer time—perhaps a CD so that your music group get to pray, too.

**Oil** - You'll need: A bowl of perfumed oil, such as aromatherapy massage oil. (Choose one unlikely to cause allergic reaction—check with the shop.)

Sit or stand and close your eyes. Wait for the scent to reach you. It is invisible but we sense its presence with us. Thank God that he is always with us through his invisible Spirit, even though we can't see him with our eyes. Choose to invite God's Holy Spirit into your life today and, as a sign of your invitation, smooth a little of the oil on to your wrist.

**Water** - You'll need: a sand tray or tray of dry compost or stones to represent a barren desert, a bucket of water surrounded by lush greenery like pot plants, and plenty of small waterproof bowls or pots.

The Holy Spirit brings life to dead places, just as water brings life to a barren desert. What part of your life or which place or situation or relationship is dry and dead like the desert? Ask God to make his Spirit flood into that place like a spring of fresh water. Fill a small bowl with water and place it in the desert as a sign of your prayer.

**Fire** - You'll need: some flame shapes cut out from red / orange card or tissue paper and a set of photos of familiar local places - schools, pubs, shops, your church building, the playground, the gym etc—and worldwide ones of different countries.

The Holy Spirit brings fire, energy and passion to places and people who were humdrum and dull or loveless and afraid. Pray for people and places around you, by placing a flame on the place or places you would like God's Spirit to set alight with his love and courage.

**Wind** - You'll need: a bowl of bubble mixture and several bubble wands. Ideally, situate this near a warm air source like a heating vent to give the bubbles more buoyancy. (You could do this activity with helium balloons, but make sure you can get them down afterwards…)

God's Spirit can lift a situation or relationship and take it to a new level, filled with life and hope. Hold such a situation before God now and breathe out your concern for the people involved by blowing into a bubble-wand and watching the bubble take on a life of its own.

http://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/pentecost-prayers/
More Creative Ideas

Art, crafts and baking:

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<td>Foam ball streamers - tell the story from scripture and then provide the children with crepe paper streamers attached to soft foam balls. Let the “tongues of fire” be tossed back and forth between the children and finally launched out across the congregation, spreading the Spirit throughout the people.</td>
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<td>Invite children to make a video of the Pentecost Story or use one from YouTube. Here is a wonderful story using kids art to share Pentecost. <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5JUjb9LJ90">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5JUjb9LJ90</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wind Bubbles - God’s Spirit can lift a situation or relationship and take it to a new level, filled with life and hope. Hold such a situation before God now and breathe out your concern for the people involved by blowing into a bubble-wand and watching the bubble take on a life of its own. You'll need: a bowl of bubble mixture and several bubble wands. Being near a warm air source e.g. heating vent give bubbles more buoyancy.</td>
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<td>Wind Twirlers - Cut a spiral from a circle of card or craft foam and hang from a piece of thread. These can be coloured in and/or decorated with stickers.</td>
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<td><strong>Pentecost Ribbon Banner</strong> - invite the congregation (all ages) to bring a piece of flame coloured ribbon to church on Pentecost Sunday – they could be used to wave during the reading, then gathered together to form a combined banner. The ribbon could be tied on to a stick ready to hang, or glue gunned on.</td>
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| **Pentecost Biscuits** – flame shape (some cheap round cookie cutters can be bent into other shapes e.g. flames) iced with red icing, then add a blob of yellow icing at the point of the flame and with a skewer make it flame-like. The simplest way is to use bought sweet short crust pastry.  
Or for the more creative…  
**Pentecost Windows**  
Using the idea of stained glass window biscuits – make them for Pentecost by using a flame shape.  
| **The Uniting Church in South Australia has some wonderful ideas for engaging together with Intergenerational Worship ideas for Pentecost**  
http://sa.uca.org.au/intergen/church-resources/all-age-worship/all-age-church-season-worship/pentecost |
| **Kites** - make kites to fly in the wind as a sign that we want to place ourselves in the flow of the wind of God’s spirit. The kites will be as different as each of us with our gifts and characteristics. Write on the kites your reflections or prayers as you place yourself in the wind. Instructions for using a plastic bag and skewer sticks are at http://www.planet-science.com/categories/under-11s/our-world/2011/09/make-a-kite!.aspx |
Pentecost Games

Games from ministry-to-children.com:

Parachute Games
Talk about how the Holy Spirit is like the wind. It holds us up and fills us up and makes us float. The Holy Spirit first came to the disciples like a rushing wind. Parachute games could include:

a) “Spirit Says” - like Simon says… 
”Spirit says:” wave the parachute fast, wave it slow, make it still, put it over your head, turn around and hold it, etc.
b) “Tent Time” – everyone raises their arms up holding the parachute together, takes a few steps in toward the centre, brings the parachute behind them, and sits down on the edge to make a mushroom, tent, dome, etc.
c) “Ball Bounce” - use balloons/balls on the parachute. Try to keep them all on, try to bounce them all off, split into two sides and try to get the balloon off the other team’s side. d) “Switch Places” – number off the children, in 4’s maybe? Raise up the parachute, call out a number or two, and those kids run under the parachute and switch places.

https://ministry-to-children.com/the-pentecost-party-lesson/#sthash.se0Gfr3p.dpuf
Pentecost “Sunday School” Lessons

“Wait for the Gift” – Primary Age
This “Sunday School” lesson for primary age children focuses on the way Jesus told the disciples that they would have to wait for the Holy Spirit. It recognises that sometimes we too have to wait in order to see the Holy Spirit at work in our lives and the lives of others. This is a slightly different approach from many and might attract those of you who feel like they have “been there, done that” as far as sharing Pentecost goes.


Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit – Preschool Age
This preschool lesson plan written by Lucy Davey asks, “Who is the Holy Spirit?” for young children, especially in preparation for Pentecost. “The Holy Spirit is like the wind… like heat… like water…” This is an interactive session that uses surprise boxes, touching, feeling, talking, singing, playing instruments, resting under a parachute and more. Elements of the lesson plan could be adapted for use in another context such as an interactive all-age talk in church.


Pentecost events

Organise a Church Picnic with Kite Flying (make kites in your children’s programme). Talk about how the wind of the Spirit moves us too!

Consider a night time Pentecost event – the light is all the more dramatic. You can purchase plastic “tea light candles” now if you are concerned about real candles with children. http://www.glowild.co.nz or about $2 each at “$2, $3, $4” type shops.

Organise an afternoon tea party all age event to learn new languages – invite people from your church of different cultures to bring food representing their homeland and help everyone get to know a bit more about each other, their language and traditions.

Host a shared meal where people are encouraged to bring dishes from other countries and learn how to greet one another in the language of the dish.

Have a Banner Making Afternoon before Pentecost to create a hanging banner for Pentecost Sunday.
The Wonderful World of the Web

We’ve done a lot of “surfing” to bring you these Pentecost resources, but there’s always so much more. The following websites are really worth exploring:

The **Children’s Adviser for the Diocese of Bath and Wells** has put together a “conclusive” manual on Pentecost for children and all ages. This document is full of plays, stories, all age worship services, activities, games and information on Pentecost.

The **Barnabas in Churches** website is packed full of stories, dramatic readings, all-age worship services, prayers and activities.  http://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/pentecost-all-age-worship/

**Children’s Chapel** offers a good rendition of the Pentecost story for children with questions, activities, songs and prayers.  http://childrenschapel.org/biblestories/pentecost.html

DLTK always has lots of ideas, sample lessons, activities, songs etc to pick from.  http://www.dltk-bible.com/guides/pentecost.htm

**CONTACT:**

To contact a Kids Friendly Coach or Advisor check our Website:

http://www.kidsfriendly.org.nz/about/contact-us/

**ORGANIC RESOURCES**

*All our Kids Friendly resources are ever-evolving “works in progress”. So if you have ideas, websites, resources and stories to share or add please let us know. And if you notice any mistakes in this resource please alert us.*

*This document is intended as a resource for the Church. The information it contains is not prescriptive. The Book of Order and its subordinate standards contain the Church’s official rules and directions. Any perceived conflict between the information contained in this resource and the Church’s Book of Order and subordinate standards is entirely unintentional*