

The Christian Story

- ◆ 50 days after Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus, 10 days after Ascension Day.
- ◆ As foretold by Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes upon the disciples in the form of flames and a rushing wind. They receive the gift of speaking in different languages, and begin to proclaim the message of Jesus to the crowds of visitors in Jerusalem.
- ◆ This is traditionally seen as the birth of the Church and the start of Christian mission.

The Beliefs

- ◆ The Holy Spirit is present in the Church and the lives of individual believers
- ◆ Trinity
- ◆ The Church is a mission community and is called to spread the Good News of Jesus
- ◆ The Holy Spirit brings the believers “gifts” (see Galatians chapter 5 verses 22f, I Corinthians chapters 12 & 13, Ephesians chapter 6 verses 14-17).

Pentecost

Acts of the Apostles chapter 2, chapter 3 verses 1-10

The Customs

- ◆ Liturgical colour is red. Pentecost ends the Easter season.
- ◆ Traditionally a time for new beginnings, so a good day for baptisms or for new clothes. This is linked with the wearing of white and gives Pentecost its other traditional name of Whitsun (White Sunday).
- ◆ A day for outings – churches used to go on processions of witness known as “Whit Walks”, and this was also a common day for the annual Sunday School outing or treat.

The Christian Experience

- ◆ An awareness of God’s presence in one’s life
- ◆ Being “born anew” / baptism in the Holy Spirit
- ◆ A sense of the community of all Christian believers