

Festival: Pentecost ~ Church birthday	Year Group: Year 1/2	No. of lessons: 1/2
Links: Cambs: CFF1, CFF2, CSC1, RFF1, RFF2, RSC4, P'borough: CRC1, CPE2, CSC1, N'folk: CP, CBB, CKF, CLS		
Learning objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To hear the story of Pentecost from the Acts of the Apostles ◆ To be able to discuss the significance of birthdays for individuals and groups ◆ To find out about the effect of Pentecost on the group of disciples and those around them ◆ To become aware of the links between Pentecost and the birth of the Christian church 		
Questions for reflection: (As usual, it is important to be aware of any class members who do not celebrate birthdays.) Why is my birthday important to me? How do I help to celebrate my friends' birthdays? What sort of groups might have a birthday party? How do I remember things that are important to my family and me?		
Activities and experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Briefly recap the story of the Ascension with the children, as this event is tied crucially to the other ~ Jesus told his followers that if he returned to his Father, he would send the Holy Spirit to be their helper. ◆ We are going to study birthdays and think about the answers to a series of questions that children can discuss with their talking partners before opening the discussion more generally. On my birthday ~ What happens? Who might be with me? Why am I happy? When do I start and finish having birthdays? (i.e. are some of us too old or too young to celebrate? It is important to establish that the first 'birth day' will be at 0 years) How might I be surprised? Where do I celebrate? Which birthdays might be particularly significant? What would happen on my perfect birthday? ◆ You can use a similar set of questions to get children thinking and talking about their friends' birthdays and the birthday of an organisation, like the Scout or Guide movements that they would experience through membership of Rainbows or Beavers. ◆ Announce that something very special is going to happen shortly and make a performance of lighting a birthday candle in the centre of the circle and explaining that you have to wait a little while for the special event....and wait... ◆ Eventually introduce the story of the first Pentecost from a children's bible and explain that this was the very first birthday of the church ~ as the Christian church was 0 years old, we should really have 0 candles! Blow out the candle. ◆ Make it clear that the Christian church was (and still is) a group of believers, not a building. Just as the celebration of a person is the acknowledgement of that person as a gift, so at Pentecost, Christians remember the gift of the Holy Spirit. ◆ Make a candle decoration to go on the front of RE books, <i>(download the appropriate Resource Page for further information)</i> 		

