



May 2026

Pentecost



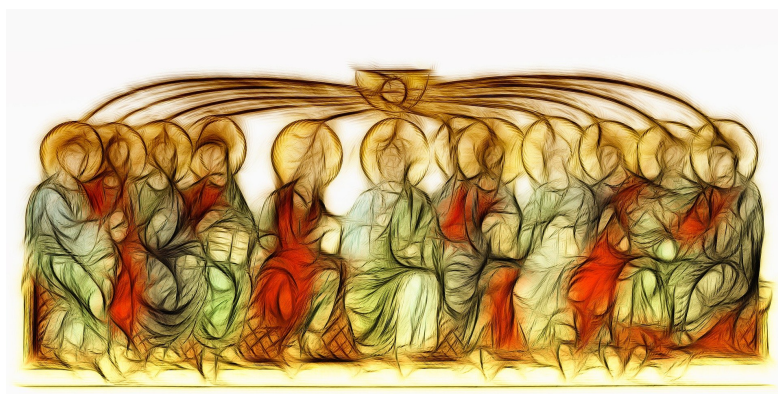
May's Teatime Church service is taking place on **Sunday 17th May, 4pm – 5:15pm**. At this service, we will be thinking about **Pentecost** – also known as Whitsun – which is a Christian celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is celebrated fifty days after Easter Sunday (24th May).

At Teatime Church, children will be able to make doves (a dove appeared when Jesus received the Holy Spirit at his baptism); wind streamers (a powerful wind was felt when the disciples were given the Holy Spirit); mould playdough in our fire-themed tuff tray (flames appeared when the disciples were given the Holy Spirit), add their own 'brick' to our wall of languages (the Holy Spirit enabled Jesus' disciples to speak in all kinds of different languages) and write their own prayers.



What is Pentecost?

The word 'Pentecost' comes from 'pentekoste' which means fiftieth in Greek, as Pentecost takes place fifty days after Easter. The Christian holy day of Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles (Jesus' disciples) and other followers of Jesus while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks.



These events are described in the book of Acts, which comes directly after the four Gospels in the New Testament of the Bible.

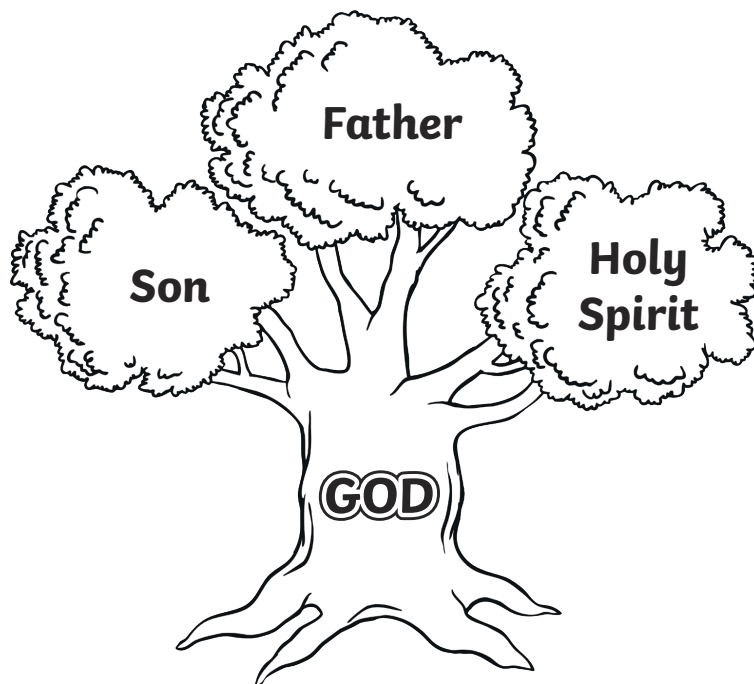
When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a noise came from heaven. It sounded like a strong wind blowing. This noise filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw something that looked like flames of fire. The flames were separated and stood over each person there. ⁴ They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak different languages. The Holy Spirit was giving them the power to speak these languages. Acts 2:1-4

Pentecost is regarded as the birth date of the Christian church, and was key in expanding the number of early Christian believers.

Following Jesus' resurrection after the crucifixion, he remained among his friends and family for forty days. On the fortieth day after the crucifixion, the Book of Acts describes how Jesus ascended into heaven, after promising the watching disciples that they would not have to wait long for the Holy Spirit to come and guide them.



Ten days later the disciples were gathered together in a house in Jerusalem. Suddenly they heard a sound like a roaring wind and saw what seemed to be fire coming to rest on each of their heads. This noise and the vision of flames represented the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the third part of the **Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit** that is the way Christians understand God.







The Holy Spirit soon enabled the disciples to speak in all kinds of different languages. This attracted a large crowd, because many foreign visitors to Jerusalem were amazed to hear their language being spoken. The disciples were then able to tell the crowd all about Jesus using these different languages.




However, some people thought the disciples were just drunk and talking gibberish. But Peter, one of the leading apostles, stood up and explained that the disciples couldn't possibly be drunk: after all, it was only nine in the morning! Therefore, although some didn't believe the disciples' teaching, the book of Acts estimates that three thousand people became Christians on the first ever Pentecost.

Fire is the main symbol of Pentecost. It represents the power, courage and determination given to the disciples when they received the Holy Spirit. In the story of the first Pentecost it also represents the apostles' ability to communicate in new languages following tongues of fire landing on their heads. The **wind** is a representation of God's breath and is found throughout the Bible, particularly in the Old Testament. Usually when the Bible describes a strong wind blowing it means that God is close by and displaying his power. The colour **red** (representing the Pentecostal flame) is also commonly seen in representations of the Holy Spirit.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

<h3>Tongues of fire</h3>  <p>Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He promised the disciples that he would send them the gift of the Holy Spirit. This gift took different forms including the form of fire. The disciples were renewed by its energy and it would help them in their mission of spreading the word of God across the world.</p>	<h3>Dove</h3>  <p>A dove appeared when Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan. The dove was a physical sign of God's presence. The dove also represents God bringing peace to all through Jesus and his sacrifice.</p>
<h3>Water</h3>  <p>Water is a symbol of cleansing. Water is used for many practical purposes like washing and bathing. Water is used in baptism and is vital for all life. Some Christians believe that water used in baptism represents the receiving of the Holy Spirit.</p>	<h3>Wind</h3>  <p>The Holy Spirit also took the form of a mighty, powerful wind. The symbol of the wind also represents the breath of God breathing new life into the Church.</p>

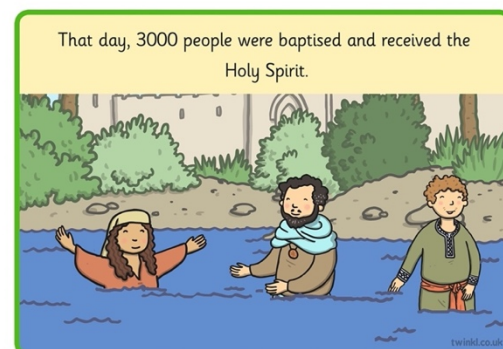
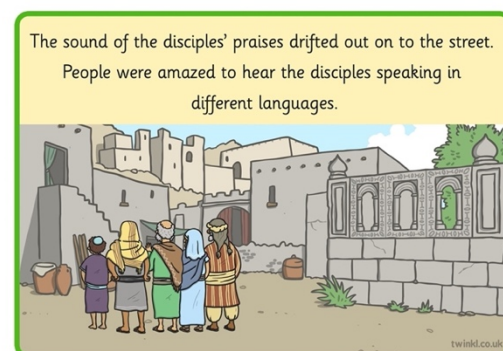
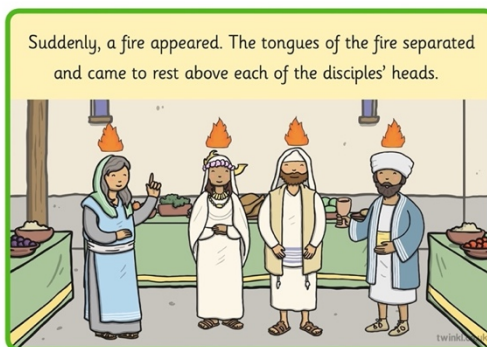


Pentecost is important to Christians because it symbolises the birth of the early church. It also represents God's support for mankind in the form of the Holy Spirit.

Please click on the following link for a short children's video about Pentecost:



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/articles/zw8c3j6>



The Holy Spirit is still guiding us today. Here are the fruits of the Spirit – the qualities that the Holy Spirit bring to us all:

Love and joy
Peace and patience
Kindness, goodness
Faithfulness
Add some gentleness
And then some self-control
Fruit of the Spirit
You're on a roll!

Our monthly prayer: The Lord's prayer revised

 <p>The Lord's Prayer</p>	 <p>God who made the earth, sky, sea, planets, stars, animals and people. You are pretty amazing.</p>
 <p>Help us to look after the world, be kind and respectful to others and, help us all to reach our full potential.</p>	 <p>Provide food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, friends for the lonely and healing for those who are not very well.</p>
 <p>Help us always, to try and do what is right and not to be led into things that make you and others sad.</p>	 <p>Help us to say sorry when we have hurt others, and to not hold grudges to those who have hurt or upset us.</p>
 <p>amen</p>	 <p>With your help, all things are possible, today, tomorrow, next week and for ever.</p>

Community information

Toddlers Together: Our parent and toddler group



Toddlers Together, our parent and toddler group held at Westbury-on-Trym Methodist Church Hall, runs every Thursday 10-11:15am during term time. All are very welcome! Details can be found on our website <https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk/youth-and-family/parents-and-toddlers/>. This term runs until 21st May then starts back on 4th June.

Waverley Abbey Christian Festival



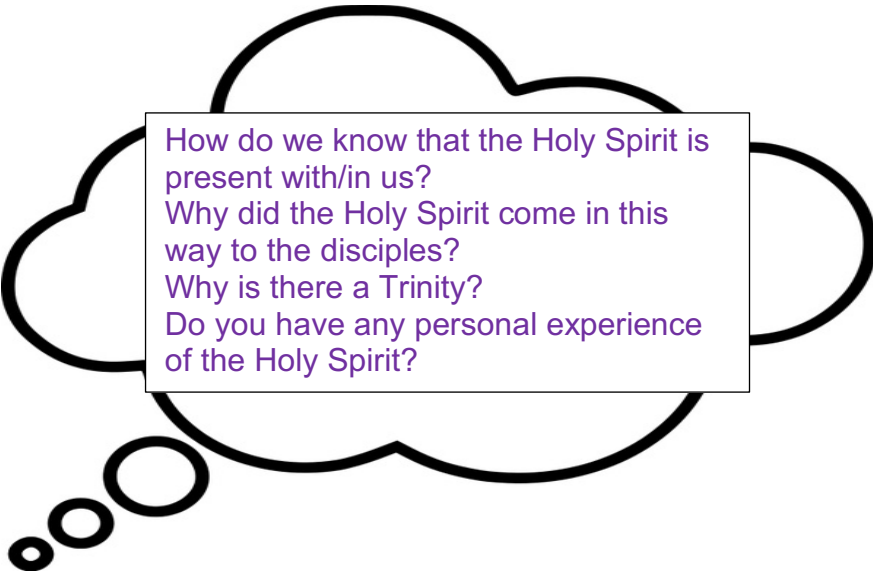
GATHER | WORSHIP | PRAY

Gather for one day or worship and prayer with field games, food courts, tours and a host of bands and speakers. Visit <https://www.waverleyabbey.org/festival> to find out more.

Thy Kingdom Come Global Prayer Movement: 14th to 24th May *God With Us: The presence of God through his spirit*

Thy Kingdom Come is a prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. Join us at Holy Trinity Church at one of our prayer sessions to help to light up the world in prayer. Please visit the church website for more information and visit <https://www.thykingdomcome.global> for prayer resources. At this month's Teatime Church, we will have a table dedicated to prayer writing, thinking about 'God with Us' – please see the posters at the end of the newsletter to help you with creating your own prayers.

Some questions for the whole family to think about at home...please do come to Teatime Church with any questions that you have.



How do we know that the Holy Spirit is present with/in us?
Why did the Holy Spirit come in this way to the disciples?
Why is there a Trinity?
Do you have any personal experience of the Holy Spirit?

Please click on the following link if you would like to donate to Westbury on Trym PCC to support the work and mission of Holy Trinity Church, Westbury-on-Trym. Thank you

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/westbury-on-trym-holy-trinity-bristol/>

From Georgie and the Youth Team

familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk

CREATING A PRAYER



STARTING A PRAYER:

DEAR GOD
FATHER GOD
GOD OUR FATHER
LOVING GOD
GOD OUR FATHER
LORD GOD
LOVING FRIEND
WE PRAY FOR
OUR FATHER



SAY SORRY:

SAY WHAT YOU HAVE DONE WRONG
SAY YOU ARE SORRY
ASK FOR FORGIVENESS
PROMISE TO MAKE A FRESH START
ASK FOR HELP
THANK GOD FOR HIS LOVE



ASKING:

SAY HOW YOU FEEL
SAY WHAT YOU NEED HELP WITH
ASK FOR HELP
THANK GOD FOR HIS LOVE AND SUPPORT
TELL HIM YOUR HOPES AND FEARS
TEACH US TO BE LIKE YOU
PLEASE GUIDE AND STRENGTHEN US
PLEASE SEND LOVE TO
PLEASE SUPPORT ME WITH
WE ASK YOUR HELP LORD FOR ...



THANKING AND PRAISING:

TELL GOD HE IS WONDERFUL
TELL GOD HE IS KIND
THANK GOD FOR HIS CARE
TELL GOD HE IS SUPPORTIVE
THANK GOD FOR EVERYTHING HE HAS GIVEN US
TELL GOD YOU LOVE HIM
WE PRAISE YOU GOD FOR



HOW TO END A PRAYER:

AMEN
PLEASE HEAR ME GOD
I ASK THIS TODAY
LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER
THANK YOU GOD
LISTEN TO MY PRAYER



CREATING A PRAYER

Dear God,
Sorry for not always putting you first,
Thank you for always being there for me
and for helping me through the bad times.
You are a wonderful, caring God.
Amen



ACROSTIC PRAYER

May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love
Now and forever
Amen.



Gracious God
Only you know me fully
Do stay by my side forever.



HAIKU

This is a Japanese form consisting of three lines of seventeen syllables. The first line has 5 syllables, the second 7 and the third 5.



You are always there, 5
Sheltering me from harm. 7
I am not afraid. 5



TANKA

This is another Japanese form consisting of five lines of thirty one syllables; 5,7,5,7,7.

O sing to the Lord! 5
Sing of his wonderful deeds. 7
All the earth is glad. 5
Let the fields sing out for joy. 7
God comes to visit the world. 7



TEATIME CHURCH DATES 2026



Teatime Church is our monthly Sunday Service for children and families. It is a very relaxed service with a range of crafts, toys, LEGO corner, baby area, interactive songs, story and prayer. This is followed by supper for all the children and refreshments for the adults. There is plenty of opportunity to move around the church and make some noise whilst learning about God's love for everyone. All are very welcome!

Teatime Church is held at the back of Holy Trinity Church in Westbury-on-Trym from 4 - 5:15pm but you are welcome to join us during any part of the service.

Please visit our website for more details about specific services.

The dates for 2026 are:

11th January
15th February
8th March
3rd April: Good Friday Crafts
17th May
21st June
12th July
27th September
4th October: At the Harvest Festival
15th November
6th December

<https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk/teatime-church/>

Email Georgie at familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk

Volunteers needed for our work with children and families



All of our children's services and events have started the new year with great success and we are always looking for volunteers to support us with our work in this area. We always need volunteers to help us with the following:

- Monthly Teatime Church Service (helping with crafts or with supper)**
- Toddlers Together (helping with crafts or in the kitchen)**
- Open the Book (a storytelling project where Bible stories are shared in school assemblies in a fun, interactive and memorable way)**
- Barton Camp Annual Trip**

For all volunteer roles in the church it is a PCC requirement that new volunteers go through a safe recruitment process. The safe recruitment process ensures that everyone is properly equipped to carry out their role. As well as safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, it helps to protect both the volunteer and the church. The process involves reading and signing a Volunteer Role Description, undergoing a DBS check and undertaking Safeguarding Training. Church Leaders will be able to guide you through this process if support is needed.

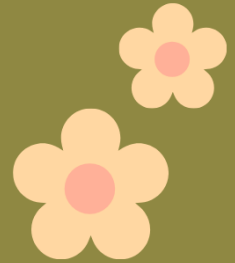
We are also looking for members of the 10am congregation to attend Baptism Services. The Baptism Supporters will make promises on behalf of the church congregation and hand out the special Baptism Bears. Baptisms take place roughly once a month on Sundays, starting at 12.15pm.

Please email Georgie in the first instance if you would like more information about volunteering at our children's services or groups or becoming a Baptism Supporter familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk

PLEASE COME ALONG TO OUR
TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC



Saturday 11th July, 11:30 to 1pm
The Vicarage Garden



A chance to gather, chat, play and thank those who volunteer at our children's groups and services.

**Please bring your own baptism bear along with you if you have one or your own teddy bear!
Please bring your own picnic and blanket.**

For more information and to book you place visit <https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk/upcoming-childrens-events-and-services/>



HOLY TRINITY
WESTBURY ON TRYM - BRISTOL