

Messy Pentecost with Pokémon

Messy Church can be a powerful reflective experience for adults as well as children. Why not try some of these to explore the theme of celebration and discover who the Spirit is through the symbols of wind, fire and water?

Activities:

Individual birthday cakes

– ice, decorate and add a candle

Talk about – Pentecost being the birthday of the Church because that's when Jesus' Holy Spirit came to the first disciples.

Pidgeot Windchimes

– make using a paper cup, string & old materials like pens, keys etc.

Talk about – the way you can't see the wind, but we know it's there because of the effect it has on trees, hats...and windsocks! The wind has power, even though you can't see it. Like Pidgeot's Razor wind "whirlwind" move, wind can be noisy and roar or whistle. Talk about the noise the first disciples heard when Jesus' Spirit came.

Charizard Fire art

– use straws to blow poster paint on paper to make patterns

Talk about – the way your breath is like wind, and how God's Holy Spirit is like his breath. Like Charizard's Blast Burst "fire breathing" move, the disciples saw something like flames above each others' heads – another sign that Jesus' Spirit was with them.

Decorated languages

– colouring of different languages saying "Praise the Lord" (see templates)

Talk about – how people from different countries praise God in different ways using different language. Think about our overseas links with World Vision & Compassion.

Squirtle's Magic opening flowers

– fold each petal in, place in water and watch! (see template)

Talk about – how the Holy Spirit is also connected to water, through Jesus' baptism. Jesus fills us with the Holy Spirit as a jug is filled with water. Like the flowers, we can be filled and opened anew with this Spirit. Let's help Squirtle out of his "Withdraw" move.

Aeroplane prayers

– write a prayer for someone you know, make a paper plane and fly it.

Talk about – this was the birthday of the church because the disciples were sent to spread the Good news around the world. How easy would that have been? In Jesus' time there weren't planes (or much paper either!)

Messy Celebration

What have we made today? *You could ask children for examples here.*
Some things to do with birthdays. Some things to do with wind. Some things to do with flames. Some things to do with water. And some are to do with praising God in different languages.

All these things tie in with the birthday of the Church, called Pentecost which is what we are celebrating today. It's the day when God gave a wonderful birthday present – the present of his Spirit.

On the day when the church began, all Jesus' friends were together, waiting for the present that Jesus had promised. Suddenly they heard a noise like a great whooshing wind that filled the house.

Make wind noises

Then they saw what looked like flames of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them, but didn't burn them.

Make flames with your hands above the head of the person next to you.

The Spirit of God had come and was filling each one of them. They all began to celebrate and praise God, but in a very surprising way. The Spirit enabled them to do something they'd never done before – to praise God in lots of different languages that they'd never learnt.

Read some of the foreign languages (use "decorated languages" activity).

Each one was totally filled with the Spirit like a jug is filled with water. Water is also used sometimes to symbolise the Holy Spirit and water is how we receive it through our Baptism.

Flick some water at everyone??

God still gives us his Holy Spirit today so we can praise him and do things for God that we'd never been able to do on our own. So let's praise God and celebrate the birthday of the Church.

Song suggestion – Allelu Alleluiah, we'll praise the Lord.

Prayers – you could throw your paper planes into the air on the count of three. Pick up one that landed near you and read it out.

Final prayer – Lord, thank you that through your Holy Spirit you are with your people throughout the world and throughout history. Help us to live as one family, loving each other through thick and thin. Amen

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *(hold out your hands as if expecting a present)*

And the love of God *(put your hands on your heart)*

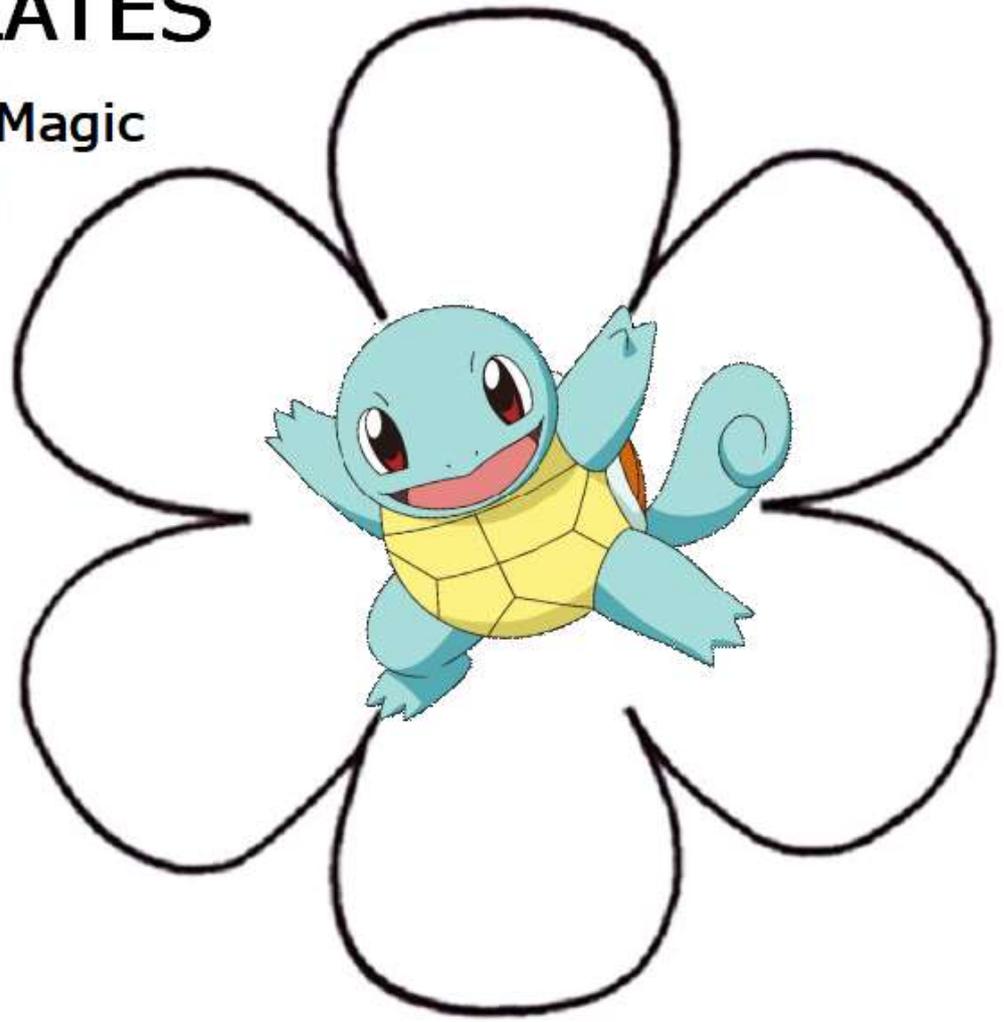
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit *(hold hands)*

Be with us all now and for ever.

Amen *(raise hands together and shout "Amen")*

TEMPLATES

Squirtle's Magic
opening
flowers



Decorated languages

Alabado sea Dios

(Spanish)

Molusch yr Arglusydd

(Welsh)

LODATE IL SIGNORE

(Italian)

Lobe den Herrn

(German)

louer le Seigneur

(French)

LAUDATE DOMINO

(Latin)

haleluyah

(Hebrew)



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