

**UPDATE**  
**28th May**  
**2020**



[www.meadowbank.church](http://www.meadowbank.church)

Friends,

As we read the account given by Luke at the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles, we see Jesus' friends have a quite extraordinary experience which completely changes the lives.

*When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

**Acts 2 verses 1-4**

As we move through this time of lockdown and into a phased re-opening of different areas of life, many believe that the church shouldn't return to normal. Rather, we need to be led by The Holy Spirit with hearts and minds open to new possibilities to share the Good News of Jesus. Over the page I give an idea of the work of the new Assembly Council of The Church of Scotland which is helping to lead us forward in challenging times. Please continue to pray for God's working through this crisis to shake us and shape us anew.

**Together, we look  
for God's leading us  
Into new ways of being  
Jesus' body here and now**

**pentecost**  
**wind**  
**fire**  
**drunk!**  
**power**

***We believe in the Spirit  
who blows through our lives:  
unsettling us,  
stirring us up,  
propelling us forward.  
We believe in the Spirit  
who comes as a fire:  
warming us.  
empowering us,  
re-making us.  
We believe in the Spirit  
who frees our tongues:  
for talking of God,  
for prayer,  
for advocacy.  
We believe in the Spirit:  
the Counsellor,  
the Helper,  
the Breath of God.  
Amen***



**Jackie Wilson-Tagoe**

Programme & Outreach Worker

(Jackie is on furlough until July 2020)

**Russell McLarty—Transition Minister**

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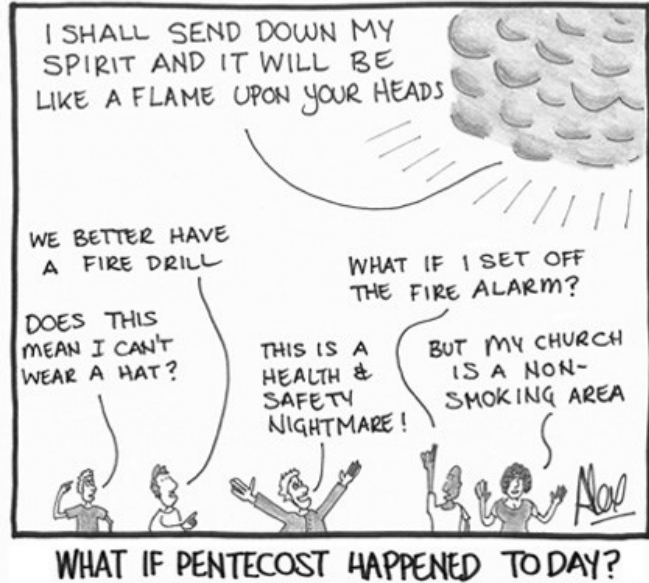
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# CAKE OR DEATH

by alex baker



Cake or death is a regular blog by Christian cartoonist, Alex Baker. Here he is suggesting that our modern church is risk averse and wouldn't be up for Pentecost! This cartoon was in the Baptist Times in May 2010

## Pentecost Wordsearch

As you look for the words think deeply about each and how it speaks in the account of Pentecost.

X T O B P P H W G H X U E X I  
T G T F Z J V J Y I O C G M B  
Y B H J P X I L P F F U Z Z X  
L L E L E J O Z J M D E S I W  
I W R Y N H L A N G U A G E L  
S Q Z I T E Z F I L L E D A L  
J C C E E L J W H K K A Q D J  
R E G G C S F V Q A T L Q W X  
T Q S G O R W I E S O W H J M  
M D P I S H G P B O N J I V J  
F A I M T E S K J U G A R N H  
I Y R J N A B Y N N U H X K D  
R N I A E V W Q K D E E R L Z  
E L T R H E X M K Y S A P N A  
Z H O C R N S T F I A R K X K

DAY PENTECOST FILLED HEAR  
HOUSE WIND HEAVEN FIRE  
TONGUES HOLY SPIRIT OTHER  
LANGUAGE SOUND SPEAK

## Assembly Council

The Assembly Council of the Church of Scotland is only one year old. With only 12 Trustees, it was formed at the 2019 General Assembly with the task of implementing a 'radical action plan' to shape the church and its mission for the future.

***"It was a big task – a comprehensive review of the way the church arranges priorities with a focus on mission and how we can best engage with the under-40 age group"***

***"We have to be brave enough to grasp nettles which had been left alone."***

With the cancellation of the 2020 General Assembly, the Assembly Council organised a webinar which brought 1000 people together last Friday to share some ideas which seem even more important given the current crisis including

- We need fewer Presbyteries which have better resources to help local congregations.

***This month the 3 Presbyteries of St Andrew's, Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline led the way by forming the new Presbytery of Fife and Aberdeen & Shetland have formed the one new Presbytery***

- In order to be able to afford new initiatives in Mission to engage with people who won't be interested in traditional church we will need to let some things go.

***"Jesus talked about pruning the vine removing the dead and duplicate branches"***

- We still have too many buildings which are hugely expensive to maintain and bring up to acceptable standards. Presbyteries need to be able to help people make difficult decisions about buildings.

***"For some people the buildings seem to be more important than what we do in them!"***

Church of  
Scotland

