

Acts 2: The Age of Church

Having died for the sins of the human race, risen in triumph over death and ascended back to God's right hand in heaven, Jesus has left His followers with a small job to finish off. It's a modest operation. Just tell everyone. The whole world. Evangelise the nations. All of them.

They are probably feeling a bit daunted. Travel is dangerous and painstakingly slow. There are barriers of language and culture. Many will be indifferent or hostile to their message.

More, there are no satellite TV channels, no Internet and not a mobile phone between them. They don't have Facebook or Twitter. How are they meant to communicate?

All they have is their shared experience of Jesus and His resurrection.

And the Holy Spirit. But that's enough to make an impressive start!

On the symbolic occasion of Pentecost, the Jewish 'early harvest' festival, the Spirit of God arrives in wind and flame, picturing life and holiness and equips the Apostles for active service.

It's just as the prophet Joel promised all those years before.

From being scared, confused and hesitant they are transformed into confident witnesses, enabled to speak compellingly of Jesus' death and resurrection to the locals in Jerusalem and many foreign visitors. 3000 people decide to trust and follow Jesus as the Christ, the Saviour sent by God on this very first day of the mission.

In this sequel to his Gospel, author Luke records how believers in Jesus become 'the Church', worshipping, praying, studying His teaching as taught by the apostles, meeting for fellowship, practising generous love.

And when the Church does Church as Church is meant to be?

People join daily.