Sermon: **When they heard this noise, a large crowd gathered. They were all excited, because each one of them heard the believers speaking in his own language** (Acts 2.6)

We live in a world of mass communication – internet (Skype), Facebook, Twitter, phones, TV, etc.

Yet many feel more and more isolated. In ‘speed dating’, are folk really meeting?

It is hard to get across the right message; people use ‘spin’, advertising. There is a great deal of scepticism.

In ancient Sparta the Council voted by shouting ‘yes’ or ‘no’ – the loudest shout won!

However true communication it is not just about talking (or even shouting!), but about listening too.

Election debates are less debate and more getting across prepared speeches. Often we are so busy trying to get our point across that we do not listen, even to ourselves.

Remember when you met someone for the first time, exchanged names but instantly forget the other’s name?! Only when we focus on the other do we remember.

One reason for the Quiet Day yesterday was the opportunity to listen to God’s Spirit.

Pentecost – the people listened to God’s Spirit working through the believers; TEXT.

True communication is also not just about listening, but about being transformed by the encounter.

I remember Dave and Kevin who had interesting religious views – an open meeting would have been stimulating. It would have been less ‘getting my point across’ & more about listening, allowing transformation, which could have included me!

Reading books that challenge can do this also.

Pentecost – the folk listening were transformed, but so also were the speakers!

If we want to communicate the gospel if we want to engage in worthwhile mission, then we need more than latest gadgets or ‘spin’; we need to speak the language of those about us, and listen to the cries of our communities, and be prepared to transform and be transformed.

All this is possible only through God’s Spirit. TEXT. Is God speaking to you?