

Messy Church Planning Meeting

Wednesday 11th January 2012

Theme: 1st Birthday Party

Present: Jo Fletcher, John Benvie, Julie Shortt, Mary Langton, Jill Totten, Margaret Burgess.

Apologies: Eleanor Benvie, Wendy Roberts, Sandra Snowball.
The meeting opened in prayer.

Feedback from 27th November Messy Church:

- Jo gave feedback from some of the mums who'd attended with their children, having found out about MC through Fords Lane toddler group, and who'd said how much they'd enjoyed it. Many hadn't been before and were very impressed.
- The attendance was excellent, especially with so many of the regulars away on the Church Weekend. Tony Baron had done a head count and there were 40 children.
- The crafts all worked very well again and fitted in well with the theme and worship.
- Mary's idea for worship was excellent and it was great to incorporate all the crafts into this section. The drama, and re-enacting the story of Joseph, worked well and was a great way of including children in the worship. It was a difficult story to shorten though and meant that it had run over the time slot but otherwise was fun and very "messy"!
- Trying to get the clearing away finished before worship begins is probably over-ambitious. If all the craft volunteers come into church, it does mean that there's a lot of work for Graham and Gill who've been helping out with this each month. We agreed to continue, as far as possible, with the idea of children helping to clear away and encouraging as many of the volunteers as possible to come into church.

Planning action points for Sunday 29th January:

Worship:

Lisa Tyler-Brough has agreed to lead worship and Jo will communicate with Lisa about the craft plans and how these could be worked into worship. Suggested ideas for worship include a focus on Epiphany and the Three Kings/celebrations or Jesus' birthday party! Suggestions for the songs include "Come and Join the Celebration" and "We are Marching". Jo to suggest that the children use the streamers, which they'll be making, and do the Conga into church from the back hall or once they're in church if Lisa is happy with this!

Action:

Jo to meet with Lisa and either Jo/Lisa to liaise with the music group.

Activities for 29th January:

Group activity: Making and decorating bunting – Julie Shortt

Pre-cut multi-coloured triangles of card to be decorated by the children and strung together. Children could decorate with stickers, writing, art-work which explain what MC means to them

Action:

Julie to source and cut out coloured triangles (bunting shape) and then use string to attach them together. Pens, crayons etc from the JC cupboard.

Craft activity 1- Party Hats: Margaret Burgess

Children to decorate pre-cut cardboard party hats.

Action:

Margaret to source and run.

Craft 2: Streamers – Sandra Snowball

Margaret mentioned that there's a bag of silver streamers in Bob Bartindale's office. These can be cut up by the children and then either just stuck together or attached to non-spiky kebab sticks for them to wave around in church.

Action:

Jo to locate bag of silver strips and liaise with Sandra about sourcing the sticks.

Craft 3: Gift wrap – Wendy Roberts

Children to each decorate a length of brown wrapping paper with potato print painting, which can be taken home and used as gift-wrap.

Action:

Jo to liaise with Wendy re: sourcing the brown paper and potato shapes. Paint from JC cupboard to be used.

Craft 4: Birthday cards – Mary Langton

Children to create and decorate their own birthday cards.

Action:

Mary to source and run.

Craft 5: Cakes and sandwiches – Jill Totten and Eleanor Benvie

Children to decorate their own individual cakes with icing, a candle and a selection of toppings. At a neighbouring table children can make their own sandwich for the party tea. Choices of jam and cheese fillings will be offered.

Action: Jill to organise the cake table and Eleanor to run the sandwich section.

Jill to source cakes and decorations, paper plates and bread and fillings for the sandwiches.

Games:

Pass the parcel and Stations or Musical Chairs in the entrance.

Action:

Mary to source and wrap two presents for Pass the Parcel and then John (with Lauren or Molly Souter) to run the games. Pass the Parcel will happen at about 4.30pm and if there are lots of children we'll get the two presents circulating at the same time. Jo to buy additional sweets to put in a basket as prizes in case there aren't enough layers. We will ask to use the 3Ts CD player.

Miscellaneous action points:

- Jo to put a notice/reminder in next week's notices about Messy Church.
- Jo to ask Keith Wright to put up the banner w/c 23rd Jan.
- Jo to buy sausages, crisps, grapes for the tea party.
- John/Jo/Jill to bring in their own newspapers and Jo to buy milk and biscuits for the adults.
- Jo to try and find someone in church who does face painting or liaise with Margaret about her neighbour.

AOB:

- Jo is consulting with Leslie about establishing a budget for Messy Church so that we can have a clearer view of how much we are spending and also to allow us to manage our own expenditure. The suggestion is that we have a pot of money, which we can just "dip" into for expenses. Jo to email volunteers to get a rough idea of how much has been spent in the last 6-12 months.
- Jo to check with Leslie/Cathy Armstrong about CRB checks and whether volunteers need to have these and also about signing in when people arrive.
- Jo to check whether the email addresses of all the people who entered the Sheep Trail can be used to invite those people to Messy Church.

Suggested themes for Messy Church: February to June 2012 (for rota):

February: Eco
March: Spring/new life
April: Moses
May: Mountains
June: Sport

Date of planning meeting for February Messy Church:

Tuesday 7th February at 1.30pm. Venue to be confirmed.