

## Messy Church Planning Meeting – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2011

### **Theme: Joseph**

**Present:** Jo Fletcher, John and Eleanor Benvie, Margaret Simpson, Sandra Snowball, Mary Langton.

**Apologies:** Margaret Burgess, Alison Pott.  
The meeting opened in prayer.

### **Feedback from 30<sup>th</sup> October Messy Church:**

The general feedback was that all the activities had worked well and the event was a success. Approximately 35 children attended and the majority had got involved and enjoyed the African drumming session. It was good to have a different element added into the “messy” mix.

There was a discussion about how to ensure that everyone involved in helping with Messy Church could attend the worship session in church, rather than having to stay back and clear up the craft tables. It was agreed that in future we will finish the craft activities at 4.55pm so that the children/families can help out with the tidying away for 5-10 minutes. Any tables still needing to be cleared up could be pushed to one side and then be finished off after the worship, whilst the children are eating their tea. This would mean that everyone, including volunteers helping with refreshments, would be encouraged to join in the act of worship. Worship will start just after 5pm and be finished by 5.20pm as usual.

Jo also mentioned that the “Tribal Shield” craft activity had proved particularly time-consuming and demanding as paint needed to dry before the children could finish decorating them. The shields worked out very well and looked great but it did prove stressful and Sandra did an excellent job of managing the situation. In planning future crafts, we need to be mindful of the more demanding activities so that we can allocate additional volunteers to support these tables.

Finally, following a discussion with Leslie and Bob, it's been agreed that we place a basket at the hatch for any contributions towards the running costs of Messy Church.

**Action:** Jo to produce the rota for Messy Church volunteers from January to June 2012. The rota will be circulated by the end of December.

## **Planning action points for Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November:**

### **Worship:**

Mary Langton will be leading worship this month, based on the story of "Joseph". Mary to engage the children in acting out an abridged version of the story, which will incorporate as many of the crafts that have been made as possible! The children will be decorating a multi-coloured coat as part of the group activity, which will also be used.

### **Action:**

Mary to liaise with Dorian and Isobel Clamp, who have volunteered to help out with the music. Ian will be on the Church Weekend Away and there is a possibility that Matt Couper will not be around. Jo to check whether James T-B is available and Ian Castledine has emailed Alan McPhail to see if he can play the keyboard.

We won't be using the backdrop etc so Jo to liaise with Bob about projecting the words on to the side wall, as we do in the services.

## **Activities for 30<sup>th</sup> October:**

### **Group activity: Decorating a big coloured coat - Margaret Burgess**

Jo to source a plain dressing gown, which the children can cover in material, lace, strips of coloured paper etc and which can then be worn in the worship section.

### **Action:**

Jo to source dressing gown (done!) and Mary to bring lace, material etc from "Granny's cupboard". Jo to speak to Margaret Burgess about getting either safety pins or tape to fix the decorations with, as well as any other material to decorate the coat with.

### **Craft activity 1- Dream pictures: Sandra Sanderson**

Mixing washing-up liquid, poster paint and water in wide shallow dishes. The children will then blow through a straw into the mixture to make it frothy and then place a sheet of paper over the top to print the bubble pattern. Children will then write their dreams on a separate piece of paper and stick this onto the bubble pattern.

### **Action:**

Jo to liaise with Sandra Sanderson about sourcing straws and shallow bowls. Jo to check if we have poster paints in the JC cupboard. There's plenty of paper in the JC cupboard.

### **Craft 2: Loaves of bread - Margaret Simpson**

Margaret agreed to make up the dough mixture beforehand. She will then bring this along for the children to make into either plaits or buns, which can be cooked in the kitchen.

**Action:** Margaret to make up the dough and Jo to see if Molly and Lauren Souter might be available to help out so that there's bread available to use in worship.

### **Craft 3: Joseph foam figures with a multicoloured coat on one side and plain on the back - Sandra Snowball**

Margaret Burgess has sourced some foam people shapes, which can be turned into Joseph characters. She has also produced a coat template, which can then be used to make two contrasting coats. The figures will be decorated with wool for hair and happy and sad faces. They look great!

#### **Action:**

Sandra to see if we need any more foam shapes (enough for 20 children) and then source some stripy multicoloured wrapping paper and plain brown parcel paper for the coats. Margaret has supplied wool for hair and there's glue etc available from JC cupboard.

### **Craft 4: Hairy Ishmaelites false beards - Alison Thornley**

Triangle-shaped beards to be cut out of black and brown fur and then children to cut a mouth hole and then attach elastic to either end.

#### **Action:**

Mary to source fur and Jo to liaise with Alison about getting elastic etc.

### **Craft 5: Camel (or scooter or bike!) ornaments - Alison Pott**

Children to make coin rubbings onto paper, and then stick them onto small squares of card. These will then be laminated and threaded with ribbon to make a hanging ornament.

#### **Action:**

Alison to source ribbon (Jo to check if Mary Langton has some) and metallic wax crayons. Use either the office laminator or Jo will speak to Gill and Graham to see if we can use theirs?

### **Dream/chill-out corner:**

Put together a tent or something similar with cushions for the children to look at books/dream or just generally have a quiet time!

#### **Action:**

Jo to ask Andy to make a few "dream corner" signs and then Jo/Mary to locate blue screens and a cover, which will then be put in the crush hall.

**Miscellaneous action points:**

- Jo to put a notice/reminder in this week's notices about Messy Church.
- Margaret Simpson to bring along a "Joseph" DVD for us to project onto the wall as the children and families come into church for worship.
- Jo to ask John Theakston (Keith Wright is away) to put up the banner w/c 24th October.
- Jo to buy food, newspapers, squash and milk.

Date of planning meeting for November Messy Church: Tuesday 10th January at 1.30pm. Venue to be confirmed.