

Messy Church Planning Meeting – Tuesday 18 October 2011

Theme: Rowley Projects/Kenya/Africa – forming part of the One World Weekend focus.

Present: Jo Fletcher, John and Eleanor Benvie, Margaret Simpson, Jill Totten, Wendy Roberts, Margaret Burgess, Sandra Sanderson, Sandra Snowball.

Apologies: Alison Thornley
The meeting opened in prayer.

Feedback from 25th September Messy Church:

The response was very good to the September 25th Messy Church with almost 40 children attending with their parents. There were some new faces both from children who attended Fun Club in August and also some of the younger children who come along to Little Fishes. Once again, the range of craft activities on offer was fantastic and volunteers were pleased with how well each craft table was supported. The treasure hunt possibly needed some tweaking but the children definitely enjoyed being involved in it!

The general consensus was that it had worked well offering a Ploughman's Tea and that we should aim to do this on a regular basis – providing cheese, rolls, carrot and celery sticks and grapes.

Action: Jo offered to buy and prepare the food for Messy Church on October 30th.

Jo also confirmed that as a result of the recent interviews about Messy Church with the young people/children in Church and Praise@thePoint, a number of people have come forward and offered their support with Messy Church. Thank you very much to Sandra, Jill and Margaret for committing to help out on October 30th.

Planning action points for October 30th:

Worship:

Jo confirmed that Alison Thornley has agreed to lead the worship element. She has been involved in the Rowley Projects for some time and also visited Nyandiwa in 2010. Alison will be looking at "a day in the life of a child in Nyandiwa" and talking about the differences in our daily lives compared to the children in the community. This will be linked to "love thy neighbour"

and how we are all part of God's plan even though our lives and where we live can be so diverse.

Action: Alison to liaise with Matt Couper about the music.

Activities for 30th October:

Children's choir:

Jo confirmed that she had spoken to both Chris Hartley and Mary Langton about inviting some children or adults along to either teach the children an African song or dance. Since the meeting Jo has been in touch with Audry Barnard who has confirmed that the children's choir, who will be attending the Christian Aid Sierra Leone evening on Saturday 29th, should also be able to attend Messy.

Action: Jo to discuss with Audry whether the children will be able to teach a dance/song.

Group activity - water filters:

Originally Steve Rowley had offered to come along and show the children how the water filters, which have been set up in the community, work. It involves a simple experiment using sand, gravel, clear plastic tubing and fizzy pop bottles! Unfortunately Steve is no longer able to attend but Bob Bartindale is to be trained up and will step in. The experiment takes about 15 to 20 minutes to carry out so the suggestion is that we do this with about three groups of children over the course of the hour.

Action: Jo to liaise with Bob and source the necessary equipment.

Craft activity 1: Animal face-masks

Rachel Thornley to organise and source materials so that the children can make their own animal face masks based on "the big five".

Action: Alison Thornley to liaise with Rachel

Craft 2: Sand art

Wendy Roberts to source and run a table where children can make their own pictures on card using glue and coloured sand.

Action: Wendy to source and run

Craft 3: African tribal shield

Sandra Sanderson to organise an activity making an African shield out of stronger cardboard boxes. These will be then be painted and decorated by the children based on a template Margaret Burgess had found.

Action: Jo to source cardboard boxes, Jo to speak to Lisa T-B about paint resources and then Sandra to cut out shield shapes and source raffia/string.

Craft 4: African sunset painting/collage

Jill and Margaret Simpson to run. Children can put together their own collage using pre-cut tree/animal silhouettes (black card) and then producing a sunset background out of cut off materials/paper/card/felt etc. Alison Thornley had also said that she would speak to Rachel for some creative suggestions!

Action: Jo to liaise with Alison once she's back from holiday and then to put Margaret and Jill in touch with Rachel. Jill/Jo to resource.

Craft 5: Kenyan flag

Sandra Snowball to run and resource using crayons or felt-tips on card with garden sticks for the pole.

Action: Jo to produce a template for the centre of the flag and then Sandra to supply several pre-cut copies for some of the younger children to colour in and decorate. Jo to liaise with Sandra re sourcing garden sticks.

Miscellaneous action points:

Jo to ask Jeff Tuck to put a notice/reminder in this week's notices about Messy Church and encouraging children, if they would like to, to wear African dress.

Jo to ask Keith Wright to put up the banner w/c 24th October.

Date of planning meeting for November Messy Church: Tuesday 8th November at 1.30pm. Venue to be confirmed.