

Messy Church Planning Meeting – Monday 12 September 2011
Theme: Harvest (I am the true vine: John 15:1-11)

Present: Jo, Margaret, John, Sandra, Julie and Ian (for the first part of the meeting).

Apologies: Wendy and Mary.

Ian joined the start of the meeting to contribute to the discussion about introducing elements of Fun Club into Messy Church on 25th September. Jo confirmed that all the children who attended Fun Club are being sent photocards this week, thanking them for attending Fun Club and inviting them back to the Harvest Messy Church. It was noted that this could mean that the 25th September will be well attended.

Ian suggested that the worship element, which Andy Holt has agreed to lead, will include a couple of Fun Club songs (e.g. My God is bigger than a burger!) and will be based on John 15 1-11 - the Messy Church theme. Based on previous experiences, Ian is going to liaise with Andy to discuss the 'up front' part of the worship so that it is as easy as possible to manage if more children do attend.

Margaret offered to speak to her neighbour who has a vine, which could possibly be used as a prop.

Action: Ian (and Jo) to liaise with Andy Holt and Margaret to bring in the vine.

Jo confirmed that she is putting together an article for the next issue of Contact to attract more help from church members. A rota will then be put together with two teams of volunteers for craft activities, kitchen support and possibly music – resulting in a “month on month off” commitment. Also, a rota is going to be drawn up for the people leading the 'up front' section of Messy Church, volunteers leading twice a year rather than alternating every two months which has happened previously.

In the two services on Sunday morning Jo is going to interview Laura Newton and Rebekah Tyler-Brough in front of the congregations about Messy Church. Again, the hope is that this will encourage more people to come forward and volunteer.

Jo also mentioned that unfortunately Chris Hall needs to stand down as volunteer for the time being due to other commitments. She will be missed but has kindly offered to help out if needed from time to time!

Action: Jo to write Contact article and prepare interviews for Sunday 18 September.

Craft activities for 25th September

Game - Treasure Hunt:

A 'fruit' treasure hunt with pieces of fruit hidden around the church for the children to find and then take into worship. 15 pieces of each fruit to be brought in: Jo - kiwi, Margaret - apples, Sandra - oranges, Julie - damsons, Eleanor - bananas and Mary - pears.

Action: Jo to 'plan' the hunt and ask John to run.

Craft 1. Dipped fruit in baskets:

Children dip pieces of fruit into melted white and milk chocolate and then these can be placed into cardboard baskets, which they can decorate.

Action: Jo to source fruit and chocolate and Sandra to bring along the pre-cut baskets and Sandra to run.

Craft 2. Cards and bookmarks:

Margaret to run a quilling activity for the older ones - where they make grapes and leaves which will be stuck onto a card to make a vine design with "I am the vine" printed on the front and the following wording on the inside: "Staying close to Jesus, loving him and trying to do what he wants will result in a happy, fruitful life."

For the younger ones, there will be bookmarks to make with grapes punched out of purple paper and small leaves.

Action: Margaret to source and run quilling activities and Sandra to provide the leaves for the activity for the younger children. Jo to approach YF members to see if they can run the activity for the younger children. Everyone to have a look for hole punches to bring in.

Craft 3. Drinks mats with glass bead vine designs:

Old drink mats (cork based) to be covered with a grape design using glass beads and a glass mosaic design.

Action: Jo to put notice in the notice sheets for old drink mats, Margaret to provide some drink mats and glass beads etc and Julie to run.

Craft 4. Interwoven vine branch bracelets/necklaces:

Make simple plaited bracelets from embroidery silks by plaiting three different coloured strands together. Finish with beads.

Action: Mary to source and run.

Craft 5. Fruit print painting activity:

Chopped fruit (and veg?) to be dipped in paint and then used to decorate orange paper.

Action: Lisa Tyler-Brough to run, Margaret to provide orange paper and Jo to source fruit/veg.

Craft 6. Communal craft activity:

Decorate a 'Harvest' banner – decorating the individual letters, which can then be strung together. Banner to be used in church.

Action: Jo to ask Eleanor to run. Jo to provide the letters and liaise with Eleanor re: decorating them.

Ploughman's tea:

Following the success of the fishfinger 'butties' it was suggested that we provide a ploughman's tea for the children. It can just be simple – cheese, grapes, carrot sticks and bread.

Action: Jo to ask Wendy whether the Rangers could run this and Eleanor to source.

Misc action: Jo to contact Keith re: banner, send out email reminder and contact Jeff Tuck about a message in the notice sheets.

The meeting ended in prayer.