

St Botolph's Messy Church Report 2023/2024

Messy Church continues to grow in members and fellowship .
A big thank you to all involved !

Reverend Jane has joined our team this year working with Reverend Joan and our helpers , Keith, Avril, Wanda, Shirley ,Helen and Mums Victoria and Stevie and younger assistants Alice and Coco .

Lorraine also volunteers each month to do the washing up ! A star !

Mums, Dads and some Grandparents continue to attend and join in with their children and young people .

A regular number of adults and children , between 30-40 attend, with new families arriving most months .

Since last year we have added to our activities and arts and crafts which are often displayed on our board at the back of the church for all to see and enjoy .

Each month Reverend Joan and Reverend Jane arrange for the leaders meet to discuss and develop ideas amongst ourselves relating to the current Church years related theme .

The relevant activities and food are sourced and prepared in advance by the leaders before the families arrive .

We are keen to involve everyone and try to cater for all needs ,ages and diets .

We keep a register of all who attend and maintain a safe environment for all .
We have several members with additional needs and disabilities but we all integrate as one big church family accepting each other !

We introduce a prayer and song for all before dispersing to join in several, usually 3-4 different activities ,crafts and games .

We usually return to sit together to hear a story or a talk relating to our theme for the day, sing further songs and celebrate any birthdays with a cake, candles and individual birthday cards .

We have ,(with the artistic talent of Wanda!) designed and are completing our own Messy Church Altar cloth and table with a plate ,Cross and hopefully Chalice in the future ,all made by the Messy Church children and adults .
Its amazing ! So individual ,bright and unique to us !

We have celebrated two Agape meals so far using our Altar . Amazing !

Each month we share a simple meal together before invites for the next meeting and services in Church are given out with a goodie bag for the children to take home with them and spread the word to their own friends and families.

Some of the themes and activities that we have created this year include ;
Trinity the children made discs and magnets showing Father ,Son and Holy Spirit .We talked about the marvel of the Trinity and all the session related to this .

For the kings Coronation we made crowns and had our picnic and cake in the church . Reverend Joan anointed most of the Messy families -Mums and Dads included -and talked about the meaning of anointment .

Our summer outing to St Ediths ,Coates .With picnics, treasure hunt ,games ,toasted marshmallows ,fun and friendship for all the family
Thank you to St Ediths for inviting us on this special day .
After the holidays we made a wonderful Noahs ark ,animals and people ,with a rainbow of birds ,learning about the story of Noah .A large rainbow cake to celebrate was consumed by most !Nuggets in the shape of animals was also popular .

Reverend Jane arranged our own bread making and the birth of our Altar cloth commenced .Very Messy !!
The children made a Journey to Bethlehem and the story of stars to hang in Church over the Christmastide .

So far this year were had fun at making Christingles ,Soup and rolls ,pancakes and always fruit and cake .

Avril always comes up with ideas for drawing ,creating small objects ,beading and magnets .

Keith continues to raise the roof with his music and songs .

The Cherry family spent their holiday collecting pebbles for us to paint with crosses and favourite pictures .

We hope to support our young members as they celebrate their Confirmation and grow in their journey and faith .

Messy Church grows from strength to strength .Long may it continue as part of St Botolph's community .

Report written by Helen Durasamy