

St Botolph's Church, Messy Church Report for 2025.  
January -December 2025.

Another fun year packed learning experiences, sharing our faith, fellowship and friendship with one another.

A big thank you to all who come and enjoy our Messy Church family together. Especially the children, young people, parents, carers, families and friends, who without them Messy Church would not be possible .

We continue to have a strong team of leaders.  
But we are always looking for volunteers to help us or to come along and meet us. Maybe someone in our Main Church congregation or community may have a great talent that you would like to share with us ?

Our amazing leader, Reverend Jane works so hard, so creative, supports us, listens to us and cares for all .

Reverend Joan also joins us on occasions, involving herself in our sessions although Reverend Joan has retired from Messy Church, but it is always lovely to see her.

A big thank you to both of you , for your love, faith friendship and guidance.

Our team of Leaders work tirelessly, creating such wonderful items for everyone to put together and create their own masterpiece.  
We have fun together at the same time, with an opportunity to share the story of the session, sharing interests or listen to any members concerns .  
All members of our Team are aware of their own responsibility if any issues are made aware to them, the importance of confidentiality but also be able to communicate their concerns to the right person, usually Reverend Jane in the first instance, if any Safeguarding issues are disclosed or a concern to them.

Sadly, Wanda retired at the end of the year.  
Wanda is certainly missed by all of us.  
We thank Wanda for all her hard work, missing her creative talents so much.  
Wanda, you have been an inspiration to us all, we wish you well and thank you.

We welcomed Ros this year onto our team of leaders.  
Ros is such a talented lady, so creative, lots of experience and suggests some great ideas.

Our members continue to grow with a strong number of families, some including Grandparents who bring their knowledge and love to our family.  
Several families whose children may have special needs join us, bringing a joy to our Messy family. Thank you.

With Reverend Jane at the helm, the leaders regularly meet to plan in advance any Messy sessions.

At the beginning of each Messy Church, the families register their own names and share any relevant information especially re any illness or allergies that we need to document.

We all collect or make our own name badges to wear

The children, (with a lot of input from Wanda, Big Thank you,) have made a piggy bank which all members are encouraged to give a donation 50% to St Botolphs' Church / 50% to our chosen charity Lincolnshire Downs Syndrome society.

There is also a Tree model placed on the entrance table .

All members can write on a leaf their own thoughts of feelings on the day which are placed in our church for reflection

A different Bible based story forms the basis of each Messy session.

Reverend Jane reads the story but also uses the white board, music or other visual aids, helping us to understand the story, our theme for that day.

All our members are encouraged to listen and interact with the story.

Music is always a great part of our session .

We have our Messy favourites.!

Thank you Keith, our Musical Director, for playing your guitar and encouraging us all.

We are all invited to join in the activities with all the children, young people and each other.

The Leaders always try to make the activities different each session, relating to the themes of our service

The list is varied and exciting .

Collages, fridge magnets , (thank you Avril, Ros and Alice) candles, decorating biscuits and cakes, food ( eating them! ) building and creating special crafts for the children to take home and share .

Thank you also to our young people who help our younger children , including Alice (Thank you for giving your help whilst studying for your exams, Coco , Eva and their friends .

You are all such a help to the Team -Absolute Stars !

We go into our main church building or outside for part of the session / service before we return to the Church Hall sharing a meal together (thank you for all who work in the Kitchen ,Shirley ,Lorraine ,Parents for washing up .I can usually be found in the kitchen .

Birthdays of any members are celebrated with a cake, a birthday card, and singing Happy Birthday.

The children receive a party sweetie bag (Thank you Shirley ) when they leave, including invites to other services to share with their family and friends.

We also encourage our members to be involved in our Congregations other events .Especially, mainly Sunday family related services, family Teddy bear jump, Cubs, Scouts community groups sharing Pancakes, Hot Dogs ,cakes and drinks after some services.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month Reverend Jane has introduced a family related communion service ,involving some of the families sharing readings , encouraging some of the children to attend lessons leading to receiving Holy Communion at a younger age prior to Confirmation when they are ready to take the next step of commitment and prepared for Confirmation into our church .  
Small steady steps .

During the Easter festival, including Palm Sunday ,Walk of witness in the village , Easter day and Christmas tide we encourage families to be involved .

We are keen to reach out to our local community and share our lives .

Our family and friends Messy highlight in the summer was our Messy picnic at Coates Church grounds ,with lots of food ,fun, games singing ,ice-creams ,bubbles making and chasing machine and toasted marshmallows around the campfire .

In August we ran a creative stall at Saxilby's Fun Day .

We also ran a Messy Chocolate Tombola and craft stall at the Church Christmas Fayre and lighting of the Church and Christmas Tree lights finishing at the Recreational Ground .

We are truly blessed to have such as wonderful Messy church family at St Botolphs' Church ,Saxilby.

Long may this continue.

Thank you all

Helen Durasamy