

## **Messy Church Report – January 2017**

Messy Church continues to be an opportunity for parents, and grandparents in particular, to come with their families; however we also continued to encourage others from the church family to come and enjoy an afternoon of company and craft. Most sessions see 17 to 20 youngsters aged from 2 to 14 engaged in up to 8 activities: simultaneously playing, creating and baking in the halls, then worshipping in church and finally joining in a family tea in the Lower Hall.

The fellowship of working in the team continues to be a joy and blessing to many of us. We usually have about 15 staff across activities and the team working in the kitchen, but these bodies are all needed and indeed we could do with more folk to join the rota as they feel able.

We still encourage families to come with children with learning needs and disabilities but then they could really do with 'one on one' help, as it particularly makes life hard, on occasion, for those who are running the worship session.

We were sorry to lose the support and creativity of Will, when he left to go to college in October, and hope we may one day recruit someone else to help us. Christmas once more saw our joint Christingle and Junior Church party, while other themes for this new year will take us through some of the key teachings of Jesus, in using parables as topics, and then his actions, in miracles.

We were amazed and overwhelmed at the congregation's generosity in helping us fill over 40 shoe boxes this year for Samaritans Purse and raise over £120 in donations needed to send them away. Thank you all so much for your support.

The church's expenditure on the banner has been well worth it, and we continue to put it up and down each month. It keeps the profile of the activity, and of the church in particular, in the public gaze and we creatively put the back of it to good use in sticking up posters for the Christmas concert in the first week in December!

Thank you for your continued support and interest through the five and a half years we have been running. And thank you to the wonderful team of volunteers who give so much time and effort to preparing and running these activities.

If church members want to come with, or without children, please do feel you can, and we welcome your prayers for our ministry.