

**Agenda for Messy Church Planning Meeting on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019  
7:30 p.m. at the Vicarage**

Messy Church is an important part of our church family at St Barnabas and as we plan for the following year I would welcome everyone's prayers and suggestions. These are the notes, plus a few additions, that were sent to the Messy Church team after our last meeting. Thank you to everyone who has already sent me their thoughts and ideas.

**Plans for Messy Church Christmas Eve 2019**

The diocese is doing Follow the Star again so we will use David's amazing star – though it is so good that I don't think we need any additional reason to get it out.

Please come with ideas for Christmas activities or let me know before the meeting.

As usual we need to sort out who does what, food, music and if we want to do a gift.

**Messy Church 2020**

We need to set the dates for Messy Church 2020. We discussed again how often we should hold Messy Church. I realise that some people who have faithfully run Messy Church activities for many years can no longer carry on. We do have a strong team and helping at Messy Church does not mean committing to every session. However, as Mary pointed out, a team may not feel like a team if they seldom work together. Please pray about how often we should meet and let me know what you honestly think.

**Ideas for 2020**

Saturdays in 2020 are:

January 4 11 18 25 February 1 8 15 22 29 March 7 14 21 28

April 4 Good Friday 11 18 25 May 2 9 16 23 30 June 6 13 20 27

July 4 11 18 (assume one of these will be the fun day) August 29 should be the church picnic

September 5 12 19 26 October 3 10 17 24 31 November 7 14 21 28

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December

We used the Messy Church book again last year and my personal opinion was that the sessions are somewhat disjointed / have little connection one month to the next. With the book coming out quarterly we cannot form an overall plan for the year. Before Neil announced the I Am series that we did in church this summer I had often thought about our lovely banners and wondered about doing the I Ams in Messy Church. Neil downloaded a lot of resources from an all age worship site to go with this series so, if we decided to do it, we would not be planning activities from scratch.

I see that Hallowe'en falls on a Saturday. I would very much like to take this opportunity to put on a light party. Absolutely NOT to criticise and condemn Hallowe'en celebrations, but as an opportunity to use the many church resources for Light parties and to fit the theme of Jesus said 'I am the Light of the World'. I would hope to combine this with Kids' Rock and Fuel.

What I suggest, and this is to give a framework to begin a discussion, not something already decided:

January 25   February 29   Good Friday April 11   May 23   June 20   July Fun Day  
August 29 church picnic   September 26   October 31   November 21 (film) or 28 Christingle  
Christmas Eve

This is one less session than 2019

There are seven I Ams which would fit exactly into the above pattern, with 'I am the resurrection and the life' on Good Friday and 'I am the light of the world' on Hallowe'en.

If we use the Messy Church books are topics we have so far are:

January	Faithful sheep sharing resources parable of sheep and goats Matthew 25 : 31-40
February	Loving and serving parable of the wise man built his house upon the rock Matthew 7 : 24-29
March	Falling and breaking Story of Eutychus Acts 20 : 7-12 linked to communion and breaking bread
April	The biggest miracle ever Easter

I realise that we have already paid for our regular order of books and I do not want to waste this money. If we chose to go with the 'I am' theme (or any other theme) we could save this year's books, cancel our order for 2021 and in 2021 use the best suggestions from the 2020 books. It is always worth looking at the books, and old books, for craft ideas even if we do not use the set topics.

We need to fix dates now so that we can make the fridge magnet calendars to give out at Christmas. It is also important to fix the dates for a year so that we ensure that the hall is not let out when we need to use it for Messy Church.