

Messy Church Planning Meeting Tuesday 6th March 2012

Theme: **Spring/New Life**

Present: Jo Fletcher, Mary Langton, Wendy Roberts, Julie Shortt.

Apologies: Alison Pott, Melissa Wearden.

Jo opened the meeting in prayer.

General feedback from the Questionnaires:

- The feedback, which has been collated from the questionnaires handed out at the January Messy Church, was circulated and will also be emailed out to the rest of the team. The general comments were very positive and constructive with much praise for Messy Church and how people are enjoying and benefitting from it, as well as bringing friends along. There was a discussion at the staff meeting on Monday and a number of suggestions have been made as to how to take MC forward over the coming months. As well as concentrating on maintaining numbers, the challenge is to offer a clear discipleship path for those who are now regularly attending MC, who don't usually attend services on a Sunday morning. The suggestions include:
 - Making people aware of other events taking place at BMC such as life-groups, any courses (parenting, marriage etc) and the E100 devotional material. This will be done through the regular handout, which is given to people as they arrive at MC, as well as making an announcement at the end of the Worship slot.
 - The Bible passage, on which the teaching for that particular MC will be based, is to be selected at the same time as the craft activities are chosen and planned. Craft volunteers will be encouraged to chat at their tables, as far as possible and where appropriate, about the theme and Bible passage.
 - Choosing a memory verse for the children to learn. This verse will appear on the craft activity signs and again on the reminders.
 - Preparing three or four discussion points for adults to look at if they wish. These will be left on the chill-out/newspaper table.
 - Taking some of the older children out to prepare some drama/a puppet show, which would be based on the Bible teaching for that particular MC.
 - Re-introducing a quiet/prayer corner.
- We agreed that this should be a gradual process and we will aim to include a number of the suggestions from the above list for the March Messy Church.
- Jo to email feedback to all MC volunteers.

Planning action points for Sunday 25th March:

Theme: New Life/Spring

Worship:

Andy Holt will be leading Worship in March. The group suggested that the Bible teaching should be based on Zacchaeus (Luke 19 vs 2-10) with the focus on Zacchaeus turning from old ways, which went against what God wanted and starting a new life. Jo to liaise with Andy and check he'd be happy to focus on this and ask if he could look to include Rebekah TB and Laura Newton with the puppets. Also, we'll try to incorporate the selected memory verse into Worship. Memory verse: 2 Corinthians 5 v17 "The old has gone, the new has come!"

Action:

Jo to speak to Andy and also forward the planning notes to him and Jo or Andy to liaise with the music team before the 25th.

Activities for 25th March:

Group activity: Growth chart in the shape of a tree - Molly and Lauren Souter

To create a height or growth chart, in the shape of a tree, and then the children can be measured and their names put alongside their height on the chart. The children could then decorate a leaf (with their name on) saying what they hope for/what they'd like to change and the leaves can then be hung from the branches of the tree.

Action:

Jo to check that Molly and Lauren Souter are happy to resource and run the activity. Cardboard, pens etc can be sourced from the church cupboards.

Craft activity 1- Hen, chicks and eggs: Mary Langton

Children to create their own hen out of card, within which there'll be a chick and an egg which pop out!

Action:

Mary to resource and run.

Craft 2: Cross - Alison Pott

Children to make their own cross out of plastic canvas and then weave yellow wool around it to decorate. Small flowers (Wendy has some in the Brownies cupboard) or butterflies could be added to decorate further?

Action:

Mary to liaise with Alison and has offered to provide plastic canvas and wool from Granny's "room". Alison and Wendy to liaise if the flowers are needed.

Craft 3: Plant pots and bedding plants- Julie Shortt

Old plant pots to be covered in shiny cellophane squares/shiny paper to create a mosaic design and then coated in PVA glue. The children can then plant a bedding plant in a yoghurt pot, which will slot inside the plant pot.

Action:

Julie to resource and run. Jo to put a message in the notice sheets asking for small, old plastic plant pots or similar size yoghurt pots. Julie to liaise with Mary regarding the cellophane paper she has.

Craft 4: Butterflies – Wendy Roberts

Children to create their own butterflies, painting on one side and then folding over to create a symmetrical. Wendy will come up with an idea to incorporate a caterpillar onto the butterfly to illustrate the transformation/old into new theme. Googly eyes and card etc to be used to create the body of the butterfly.

Action:

Wendy to source and run.

Craft 5: Blossom tree – Lisa Tyler-Brough

Blossom trees to be created out of twigs and decorated with pink tissue paper, small flowers etc. The trunk can be stuck in brown plasticine.

Action:

Lisa to source pink flowers/tissue paper and to run the activity. Margaret has branches which can be used so Lisa/Margaret to liaise. Mary to check her plasticine supplies!

Miscellaneous action points:

- Wendy has offered to make scotch pancakes for the Zaccheus tea party!
- Jo to put a notice/reminder in next week's notices about Messy Church and also to put out a request for small plant pots and similar size yoghurt pots.
- Jo to ask Keith Wright to put up the banner w/c 19 March.
- Anyone who gets a Sunday newspaper to bring it in and Jo to buy milk and biscuits for the adults.

The meeting closed in prayer.

Next planning meeting:

This will take place during w/c 26th March, before the school