

Messy Church 2019

There was a significant change in the Messy Church team in the summer of 2019. Having built up All Saints Messy Church, and provided a haven for many families over a 9 year period, the original team decided that it was time to hand over to new blood. It was very hard to say goodbye to that team, led by Kath and Geoff Oates and Nick Hoyle, ably assisted by many others. However, the new team set about making plans to continue to run Messy Church.

Messy Church comes under the auspices of the Bible Reading Fellowship. The BRF website tells us that Messy Church is Christ-centred, for all ages, and fosters creativity, hospitality and celebration. It is primarily aimed for people who don't already belong to another form of church. All Saints Messy Church offers a variety of creative activities based on a Biblical theme, a short time of worship with a story, prayer and songs, and a sit-down meal together at tables. The number of children attending ranges between 20 and 25, so with their parents, it is quite a large group. We have found it helpful to move across to the church for the worship time, while the meal is prepared. Our themes dovetail with the themes for the family service which follows a fortnight later.

In addition to the monthly Messy Church gatherings, our young families have also been involved in quarterly Ecowalks, meeting after the Family Service at the start of each season. The Ecowalks averaged about 10 - 14 participants, including children/families from Messy Church. In addition to looking round the churchyard at whatever was in season, and discussing this, there were nature quizzes to enlarge people's ability to identify various birds, insects, animals and plants - presenting photographs or samples of living material, leaves and fruits of trees etc.

As with everything that happens at All Saints, Messy Church and the Ecowalks could not happen without the people who give so generously of their time, their expertise and their love.