



Messy Church was created in Portsmouth and has spread all over the world. Our grandchildren attend one where they live. All are different, adapting to fit round the premises and resources available. This message is largely about our Messy Church in Findon.

The children come mainly from our village school, but we do have some from Church and some from the school in the valley. The very nice thing about our involvement is meeting the children and families and them knowing us. The mothers of the younger children travel round the activities with them and those of the older children settle down with a coffee and a nice chat. We're not a babysitting service so a parent is required to attend with their children.

Each week we have a theme from the bible. There is a guidance book available from the Messy Church organisation, but we often go 'off piste' and decisions are made at the planning meeting. So, we plan craft activities that fit the theme, some of them are very loosely fitting, but we try to talk about the subject matter as we work with the children and create things worthy of taking home. The room is set up with tables with the various activities worked from each and each of us set up and organise one activity.

This lasts about an hour and, while the room is made ready for the final session, which is a meal, Helena leads a short prayer, talk, and song time. Sometimes the working parent joins us at this stage, and we have the whole family together. We also join the families and eat with them which is part of the fellowship. The meal can be anything, eg lasagne, sausage and mash, a picnic, jacket potatoes, and so on. The meal is a lovely ending but **we're looking for a new food team** as our two magnificent ladies who have done this for the past three years have retired.

Although Messy Church meets monthly, we never meet during school holidays so August, September and usually January are a break. We never know how many children are coming; it can be extreme at 30 plus but once, when we clashed with something at school, we had just half a dozen. It becomes very much an Act of Faith. We do receive feedback from time to time and we understand that Messy Church is well thought of.

If you feel you can help, or would like more information, get in touch with me by emailing me at fishponds2@hotmail.co.uk

Hilary

Hilary Langford

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