

Messy Church Report

Messy church has met on 6 occasions since our last report. We have a regular team of 6-8 volunteers who assist in leading activities and supporting the families. A variety of additional helpers come and help intermittently with the drink and snack trolley. Julie and myself are very grateful to all who help, without them we could not run such a successful outreach. The badminton group have also helped on a Friday with preparing the room and this has been very much appreciated.

We usually meet on the first Saturday of each month and we have about 8 families who attend regularly. There is no charge but a donation plate helps us cover most of our costs. The format that we have established that seems to work for us is to have a couple of starter activities as families arrive, this is followed by a circle time where the theme, story and song is taught. Children then move around the activities with adults assisting and leaders taking opportunities to support and reinforce the Christian concept. We always try to include a food/'baking' activity and sometimes a science based activity as these have proved especially popular. There is now also a prayer based activity at every session which we move into the church so Sunday worshippers can participate too. Another conscious effort we have made this year is to try and find a relevant reason to take the group into the main church building in each session so they become familiar with the space.

The themes for each session are usually taken from 'Get Messy Magazine' which we subscribe to and use as our planning tool. Themes this year have included harvest, Jacob's stairway to heaven, The Poor widow and Easter. A child requested we do a lego based session so we linked this with Noah's ark and promises. A highlight for me this year was to be given the responsibility of doing the Christingle service in Messy church. A mini service took place at the front of church and from donations along with Jack in a box we were able to send £37.85 to the Children's Society (the charity linked to Christingle services and who provided the material).

Although the children like to take most of their 'creations' home with them, and we see this as a good witness, Julie takes photographs, if parent's agree, and displays them in the school room with any of the work the children are willing to donate so the church can share in the fun too. Thanks to Ron for re-painting the board this year for us.

Finally we would like to take this opportunity to thank Angy for her continued support with all we do and the church council who have agreed to donate £40 to enable us to buy a range of child friendly bibles for use at Messy Church and Jack in a Box.

Messy Church is open to anyone so we look forward to seeing you on a Saturday morning soon!

Cathy Charlesworth

Holiday Club 2017

The Holiday club ran for 3 days and took place at the end of July. It was in the form of 3 Messy church sessions, since this is the age group we seem to attract, with some extra time to learn additional songs and have some physical activities too. The themes were :-

A bible beach- the calling of the disciples

Bible mountain – The transfiguration

Bible roads – The road to Emmaus

We had 12 children and their adults attend and 10 leaders assist. Numbers were low again but a good time was had by all.

Many thanks go to all who helped with their prayers, resources or at the club. We couldn't do it without you. If you want to help this year speak to myself or Julie.

Cathy Charlesworth

Jack In A Box

Our Wednesday morning playgroup is still going extremely well and it surely could not be as enjoyable without the help of our fabulous and committed ladies who help with the refreshments, helping the children with crafts, chatting with the carers and the big tidy up at the end of the session. A huge thank you to Helen, Mary, Marie, Maureen, Elaine and Linda who are incredible with their support and great energy for this group. It is a really tiring morning as we often have an average of 25 children and 22 mothers and so the hall is surely a hive of activity.

The session starts at 10am and finishes at 11.30am. The room is laid out so that the children can enjoy a range of activities ... each week there is a play dough table, book/reading area, age appropriate toys, and a craft activity. The small world area is usually set out as a shop or kitchen/café, or afternoon tea table. We have a variety of jigsaws/puzzles to encourage problem solving skills. We have a carpet area for cars/trains/building blocks with a space for small ride on toys. The session is structured in the same way each week ... free play, refreshments and a snack of biscuits, fruit and bread sticks followed by a song time where Birthdays may be celebrated. This is also the time when 'Church happenings' is announced ie AAW, Messy Church and then we have 15 minutes or so of free play before tidy up time. Our weekly craft activities are usually seasonally, charitable or bible based. The carers are very supportive sitting with their children and encouraging them to use scissors and glue safely and seem to actively engage in each of the crafts available.

The playgroup have supported many charities throughout this year, local, national and international and sent weekly subs and/or donations. We have supported MacMillan, The Alzheimer's Society, Embrace, Fairtrade Fortnight/Hidden Entrepreneurs and Nepal Earthquake relief.

A huge thank you to Marilyn, who now comes in on a monthly basis selling Fairtrade produce. This is a fabulous opportunity to help educate our young families on the Fairtrade movement as well offering a variety in choice to Fairtrade products to purchase.

This year we are hoping to encourage each other in the group to become more thoughtful in our approach/ look at the impact that we have on our environment eg plastics/disposable single use items etc. One of the carers at playgroup, has just started work at North Lincolnshire Council and has asked if we can encourage the families to take positive steps to make small changes in their purchases. Jack In A Box's first step is to now use bottled milk provided from our local milkman.

Once again at Christmas time, 60 families from Messy Church and Jack In A Box were each given a Fairtrade Advent Calendar each of which depicted the Christmas Story in a beautifully written and illustrated booklet. For many families, this may have been the only time that the real meaning of Christmas will have been shared during the Advent season. All of the calendars were kindly sponsored by the congregation of Wesley and we would just like to say a huge thank you once again.

The Jack In A Box children were each given a book depicting the Christmas story which was age appropriate to each child– these were supplied from Jack In A Box funds.

Easter brought another opportunity to give each child from Jack In A Box, Messy Church and Church Services, a Fairtrade Real Easter egg with the Easter Story booklet included. Again,

over 60 children were given one of these eggs giving us the opportunity to ensure that the Easter story was shared in homes. These were purchased from Jack In A Box funds. It has been another fab year at Jack In A Box, but I would finally like to ask that if any of our congregation is able to give an hour or so of their time, to come along, become a familiar face and a welcome ear, to many of our carers, you would be warmly welcomed. Please keep us in your prayers.

Louise Howard

Badminton Group

Sadly, it is approaching the end of a chapter with our Badminton group as there are only 3 youths now coming on a Friday afternoon. 2 of the youths, Jack and Kian, will be sitting their GCSE's this Summer and then going different ways for 6th form. I feel that our Church doors should be open on a Friday afternoon despite the few youths who still come. I would imagine that the group, as it is now, will probably stop meeting from the end of May time.

This is surely a time now to pray and see what the next Chapter of our Church's youth ministry can be and I am surely open to assist and help put into action any ideas that our Church family may have. It would be so great if we can offer the opportunity to youths, who come through our doors, to attend the 3 Generate conference again this year, in November.

I have thoroughly enjoyed spending my Friday afternoons with these kids and seeing them grow into who they are now. They are a fantastic group of next generationers. I hope that all of the youths who have come through our doors, no matter how briefly, will have experienced the Church as a welcoming and 'felt at home' place.

As you are aware, in November, 6 of the youths attended the 3Generate Conference with Rev Angy. They surely had a great time and it was definitely a connecting time for them. As I write this report, it is Alexander's hope to speak on his experience at Synod on 21st April.

In November, we had Clare Mounter from West Butterwick who came and spoke to the group about the plight of the 'untouchables' after the 2015 Earthquake in Nepal. Clare spoke and showed photographs of the poor and most vulnerable in surrounding villages where the Earthquake devastated lives. The Badminton Group and Jack In A Box donated £50 to the cause and Clare has been keeping in touch with us for other fundraising opportunities she is organising.

In December, the youths sold cakes and cookies again, for Elf Day (an annual Alzheimer's Society Event), in South Axholme school raising over £90 (and with the help of those attending the Church's monthly coffee morning! Many thanks to those who supported!!) The funds were split between the Alzheimers Society and a Dementia local support group. The badminton net and equipment will still be kept in the Resources Room and so will always be available if some of you might like a game.

Please continue to pray for these youths and also what we can do in the next chapter of Friday afternoons.

On behalf of the children, I would like to say a huge thank you once again, for supporting this little church group because I know that these fabulous youths have benefited from it in many ways over these past 7 years.

Please hold them all in your prayers.

Louise Howard

Knitting Group Report 2018

We are a group of ladies who like to knit. We are mostly self funding but have had generous donations from the Isle of Axholme Lions and the Wesley Guest House which has helped us to buy wool and contribute to the cost of the postage on the parcels. We have sent parcels of blankets, jackets, hats, mittens and booties to premature baby units at Scunthorpe, Lincoln, Doncaster, Hull and Jessops in Sheffield. We also knit blankets for the elderly care homes in the area.

We meet every 2 weeks in the guild room at 2pm except during August. We welcome new members of all abilities to join our group.

Janet

Catering report for Year June 2017 _-- May 2018

This year we have again continued to work more closely with The Old Rectory, providing meals at either Wesley or the Old Rectory, depending on the size of the group. Groups of 20 or under can be easily accommodated at the Rectory but any larger group is catered for at Wesley where there is more space. Whichever venue we use makes no difference to the profit we make; that is shared equally between the two sites.

We have entertained visitors from various parts of America, Korea, Africa and of course the U.K. Only recently we have looked after a group of Cantonese Christians from Canada. So life is never dull.....always interesting and rewarding

We are able to enlist help from both Wesley and the Old Rectory which means our circle of "friends" grows.

The split between visiting parties and "in house" catering appears to work well. Pat and Glenise may like to comment on that. This arrangement has relieved the work load a lot and has been so helpful. Thank you.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the catering in any way, gentlemen included. We have an excellent team of workers. We have many visitors booked to come this year and we look forward to meeting them.

I am delighted and grateful for the smooth way in which our hospitality works. We have an amazing team of workers who, once they know what is required, just "melt away" and get on. Everyone just seems to take on a role and there is no argument! Wonderful!!!

Thank you so much to everyone who has helped and will help this year. You are all very precious.

Marion

Prayer Meeting

We continue to meet on Wednesday mornings at 7.45 for half an hour. We generally take the scripture reading as recommended in the Methodist Prayer Handbook, considering it for a short while, then follow with prayer, either silent or spoken as the Spirit leads us. We're about 7 of us at the moment but would love to have others joining us.

Lyn Croot

Worship Band Report

The Worship Band continue to play each month at the All Age Worship on the fourth Sunday of each month. Numbers can vary but when everyone is present we have eleven people playing and singing to further God's glory.

New members are always welcome. A desire to serve God in this way is the only requirement necessary. Please do speak to any one of the members if you would like to take part.

During the year the band has played at services at West Butterwick Methodist Church, to help out with Own Arrangement services and also at preacher requests.

The band also performed at Epworth Music Day in June 2017 for the first time. We opened the day's session at Wesley Memorial Church at 10.00am with a set of 8 songs to a good-sized audience. The church has been used as venue for Music Day for a number of years and we felt it was appropriate that the public should see and hear what goes on at the church.

Val Hackney

Hiring of Premises.

The premises can be hired by groups etc by booking through Val. We have regular bookings by Weight Watchers (Tuesday morning), Brownies (Wednesday evenings) and Isle of Axholme Family History Society (Thursday evenings once a month).

Due to the number of weekly Church activities it is difficult to accommodate any more bookings of a regular nature but the hall does get used for funeral teas, catering for visiting parties and the odd meeting. We have recently taken bookings from a children's dance group on Wednesdays during the school holidays. It is good to see the premises being used for a variety of activities.

Please can I take this opportunity to remind everyone to please check with myself before booking the rooms (for Church events as well please) and also to write it on the booking calendar in the Guild Room. Several events have taken place through the year which were not on the calendar. Thankfully it was no bother but we don't want to run the risk of any double bookings in the future.

Val

Choir report 2017/2018

The choir continues to contribute to the worship at the morning services and special events. We are pleased to welcome a new member, Chris Jenkins and others who have joined us on special occasions. At Easter 2017 we sang from Singing the Faith ,nos 257 and 304,on Wesley day we sang from the musical Spirit. At harvest festival we sang an introit called Beneath the mellow autumn sky and as an anthem we chose Sowing and Reaping. The carol service introit was Once in Royal and the anthem chosen was Darke,s In the Bleak Midwinter. Easter 2018 we sang from Singing the Faith nos 274 and 309. We invite anyone who enjoys singing to join us. Practises are at 10am on Sunday. I would like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement and Rachel, Daniel and Parry for their help.

Michael

Garden Work Group.

The winter recess has been extended by the prolonged inclement weather. We have started again. All are welcome to join us whatever ones physical ability or gardening skills. If interested have a word with Michael or John.

The more helpers the lighter the task, the smarter the grounds and you may meet an ex-minister!
John Lambert

Chatterbox

Chatterbox was started some 20 years ago in response to a perceived need for a place where anyone in need of company, friendship, someone with whom to share conversation or to listen to anxieties or needs could meet. Tea or coffee are served, but the main need was felt to be a listening ear and a welcome.

Over the years this regular Monday morning event has served many different needs and seen numbers of different visitors. Present regular numbers are about 15, though this varies over the year.

An invitation is always given to anyone who would like to take part in the monthly communion service, and there are those for whom this has become a regular custom.

In recent years it has become increasingly difficult to cover all the needs for helpers. Chris Jenkins has now joined the team, and Alan Mason is virtually an ever-present. There are also others who will help out when there is a particular need, and their help is greatly appreciated. However, just now there is the very real danger that availability of staff could threaten the ability of Chatterbox to continue to function. To lose this valuable outreach would be a serious loss to the church and community, and we appeal to anyone who feels able to offer to take a turn on a rota to maintain the service.

Joan Toppham

Action For Children

I have been responsible for Action for Children fundraising since taking over from Di and Terry Dudley in 2000. The annual sponsored walk was started by them and over the years we have been able to raise a considerable amount of money for our Methodist Children's Charity. Last year's total was over £900.

The walk is a circular one taken at an easy pace and we have a stop in Belton for a provided picnic and toilet.

We have had the support of several members of Epworth, Haxey and Westwoodside chapels who have raised amazing amounts of money. Last year we had three ladies from the Epworth Art Group and who intend to come again this year.

We do appreciate the support we have received from the walkers and also our faithful sponsors. If there is anyone who would like to walk please do tell me so they can be registered. This year Mai Lin has circulated other chapels in the circuit advertising the date - 9th June 2018 at 1030 leaving and returning to Wesley Memorial Church Epworth.

Joan Toppham joan.cycle@gmail.com

Key Duty

The team have continued to keep the church open by day and safely locked at night. We open all the building from 9 till 5 summer and between 10am and 3.30pm in the darker months.

When there is an evening meeting only the main entrance to the school rooms is opened and access to the sanctuary prevented by the locked door from the corridor.

If access is needed outside of the above hours please liaise in advance with the person listed on the weekly rota on the notice board at the back of church.

Could all members help security by ensuring doors are closed when not in use.

We welcome any additions to our work team. We feel it important that the sanctuary is open by day. The use by non church groups raises our profile and rental fees assist church finance.

John Lambert

MWiB (Methodist Women in Britain)

If you haven't been to one of our meetings why not come and see?

You will be most welcome - and you don't have to be a church member or even a woman - we often welcome men to our meetings.

We begin the September and January sessions with Holy Communion, and we continue with a varied programme, from fun afternoons with Beetle or Keep Fit to more serious afternoons and devotionals - all with either outside speakers, other church members or we do it ourselves.

If you come you can be sure of a friendly welcome - and we always finish with a cup of tea, biscuits and a time to chat.

Pauline Bennison

LCP

I've been a little remiss lately with my role as LCP for this church but I'm glad to say that I'm picking up the thread again, thoroughly enjoying visiting people at home or wherever they may be. I'm also looking to take up a little more within the role in the future but visiting is definitely my priority although I'm sure I'm not the only person doing that, thank goodness! My 3 year assessment is looming this year but I sincerely hope that I can continue. Lyn

Men's Fellowship.

The men's fellowship started in December. We meet on the evening of the 3rd Monday in the month. All men are welcome to join us. A hot drink, chat and then discussion to which one can contribute or observe as the mood takes one.

We hope to be more ambitious when the weather improves. Watch the notices.

John Lambert

Safeguarding Report 2018

During this year:

- The church has adopted a Safeguarding Policy which is in line with the District Policy;
- the Safeguarding Noticeboards in the church, the school room and the guild room have been established and improved;
- approximately 15 members of the church have undertaken safeguarding training;
- I have taken on the role of Circuit Safeguarding Officer and become a member of the District safeguarding Group;
- I have been involved with one safeguarding issue within the church.

Andrew Bamford

Work with Schools Report 2018

I now visit 5 local schools on a monthly basis to lead Collective Worship. During this year the theme has been "Saints and Prophets". My ability to predict the future using my magic crystal paperweight has been admired in several of the schools and some of the children, after training, have become quite proficient prophets. We have also looked at the life of Augustine Gilbert, the Isle's very own saint.

I have continued my work as a governor at Epworth Primary Academy with particular responsibilities for Safeguarding and RE.

Andrew Bamford

House Groups

After a rather long break from the house group I've been leading, I hope to begin again on 21st May and keep a monthly gathering going if I can. I know they're helpful to us all. I'd also like to ask that other people consider holding house groups please. They're such an integral part of church life and a place that people can grow in faith. I know that it was in small groups that I was nurtured most. You don't need to be too deep with anything (looking at one piece of scripture together would work or even a hymn or two), you don't need to have all the answers (none of us have those!) but hospitality in a home for a few people, for you all to talk about your own faith together, would be so helpful. I'd be happy to talk to you about it if that would help.

Lyn Croot

Statistics for Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms at Wesley Memorial Methodist Church (Apr 2017 – Apr 2018)

Weddings x 1

Baptisms x 17

Funerals x 9

Wesley Monthly Charity Collections

Month	Charity Name	Charity Box	25% C/Morn	Chatterbox	Other	Total
May - 17	Lincs Air Ambulance	64.50	37.50	-	-	102.00
Jun-17	Breast Cancer Care	56.75	36.25	-	-	93.00
Jul-17	Action for Children	50.70	32.50	-	-	83.20
Aug-17	Leprosy Mission	53.45	32.50	-	-	85.95
Sep-17	MacMillan Cancer Support	31.55	48.75	-	-	80.30
Oct-17	LIVES	59.50	42.50	-	10.00	112.00
Nov-17	Salvation Army Christmas Appeal	33.10	64.50	28.40	-	126.00
Dec-17	World Food Program	76.61	58.12	20.52	42.65	197.90
Jan-18	Guide Dogs for the Blind	47.27	42.12	13.01	-	102.40
Feb-18	The Mercy Ships	44.52	66.63	66.37	-	177.52
Mar-18	Dementia UK	39.20	39.00	25.50	4.00	107.70
Apr-18	RNLI Lifeboats	56.82	44.18	14.00		115.00
	Total	613.97	544.55	167.80	56.65	1,382.97