

TALK ABOUT and TAKE HOME IDEAS

Mealtime card

- What's one new thing we could do to give to God?
- In what ways can we give time to God?
- What has challenged me at Messy Church today?

Take-home idea. Next week is our Harvest Celebration. We would like you to bring food needed by the foodbank. Some of the main items the foodbank is short of are:

Bottles of squash, cartons of fruit juice, treats for children, tins of meat like meatballs and casserole steak. Also tins of fruit and puddings.

The next **Messy Church** is
on **Sunday 20th October 2019 3:30** as usual in the hall.
Please put the date in your diary and invite another family to come with you.

Other Messy Churches this year are....

17th Nov and 15th Dec (Christmas party time)

At All Saints Messy Church, we are aiming to offer something for families who want an opportunity to be together in a relaxed, supportive and creative environment. We try to make our programme an imaginative mixture of family, fun, friendship, food and faith.

In the coming weeks, please think about Messy Church and if you could be a helper. We usually run 6 activities each month but we are struggling to get enough helpers, could you be one of our helpers? Talk to Peter or one of the other leaders for more information.

Next Sunday, 22nd, join us for our Harvest Celebration

A service for families and everyone!

Morning Celebration is in the main church building we will have our **Morning Celebration Service** which will start with **breakfast at 10:00 am**, It includes **puppets telling part of the story, songs, an activity and lots more. It will finish about 11:30**

For more information email or visit our website

messychurch@allsaintscoton.org www.allsaintscoton.org

ASCC Messy Church No 66



All Saints, Chilvers Coton

Sunday 15th September 2019 in the Parish Hall

Welcome to Messy Church

God loves a cheerful giver

In the book of Malachi we read about God expecting us to give some of what we have to others through his church and then He will reward us by giving us even more. Read more inside....

From 3:30pm Welcome, Drinks and Craft Activities

Please register then help yourself to a drink and take part in the activities. Please take time to read the bible story and the reflection before you start the activities and take time to do the **"talk about.."** for each of the activities.

4:30 pm Celebration Time....

4:50 pm Meal Time

You can find more information about the theme & activities inside

Please take this home with you

Today's theme: God loves a cheerful giver

Bit from the Bible Malachi 3:1-12 (abridged)

The Lord who rules over all says, 'I will send my messenger. He will prepare my way for me. Then suddenly the Lord you are looking for will come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant will come. He is the one you long for... I am the Lord. I do not change. That is why I have not destroyed you members of Jacob's family. You have turned away from my rules. You have not obeyed them. You have lived that way ever since the days of your people of long ago. Return to me. Then I will return to you,' says the Lord who rules over all...

'You ask, "How are we robbing you?" 'By holding back your offerings. You also steal from me when you do not bring me a tenth of everything you produce... Bring the entire tenth to the storerooms in my temple. Then there will be plenty of food. Test me this way,' says the Lord. 'Then you will see that I will throw open the windows of heaven. I will pour out so many blessings that you will not have enough room to store them. I will keep bugs from eating up your crops. And your grapes will not drop from the vines before they are ripe,' says the Lord. 'Then all the nations will call you blessed. Your land will be delightful,' says the Lord who rules over all.

The last book of the Old Testament is full of challenging words for the people of God at that time and for us today. It contains God's own searching questions to Israel about their lack of faith, their half-hearted worship and their ungenerous lifestyle. Their return to Jerusalem should have renewed their love for God. Instead they had allowed faith to slip to the margins of their lives. God was disappointed with them. Long ago, the people of God were told that, they should give back to God at least a tenth of all they had. But as their faith had weakened, and so had their giving. God knows that once we lose the habit of being generous, greed and selfishness quickly shape our attitudes.

God wanted them to give so that people less well off could be fed and clothed. Jesus explains that whatever we give to others is really given to God and also that when we give, we lay up treasure in heaven and will also be blessed in our lives here on earth. Such generosity should be a mark of being a Christian. Maybe this Messy Church session is the time to think about giving as a mark of following Jesus.

Perhaps we can come to our Harvest Celebration next Sunday and bring some food for the foodbank.

(see the list on the back page for things they are short of)



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

See the table activity sheets for more details about doing the craft activity

1. Giving God our best!

You will need: paper; felt-tip pens; circle templates; rulers; small glasses; vinegar; food colouring; baking soda

When it comes to 'time', do we give God our best or just a little of our leftovers? Create your own pie chart of how you spend your time. Include how much time you spend sleeping, eating, praying, working, playing, watching TV, sport and exercise, worship, gaming, serving, caring for others, caring for creation, praying. What happens if we let God be the 'centre' of our lives? Place a small glass in the centre of the pie graph. Fill 1/3 of the cup with vinegar, add a few drops of food colouring and then add a spoonful of baking soda. Stir and watch what happens.

Talk about how God wants to be in our life, in all we do and are. By letting God be at the centre of our lives, we can give our best to him.

2. Fruits from the harvest

You will need: hand sanitiser; toothpicks; grapes; cubes of cheese; raisins and a mini cucumber.

Note: Be sure to wash hands before starting this activity.

Create your very own fruit creations such as caterpillars. Use the toothpicks to add fruit and add raisins for eyes.

Talk about how fruit and vegetables are a gift from God. Perhaps we can share our fruit creations with others at mealtime. How would that make you feel?

3. 'God loves a cheerful giver' (2 Corinthians 9:7)

You will need: picture of a fish, felt tip pens, 2 sweets glue spots or double sided tape and a plastic sandwich bag (fish tank!).

Colour in the stripes on the fish, attach the 2 sweets using glue spots or double sided tape. Put your fish into its "tank" and write using permanent markers "I can share"

Talk about Take it home and give one of the sweets to someone else and keep one for yourself.

4. Giving gladly to God

Roll the dice to play the game and see who can get to the end first.

Talk about what it feels like when you have to go backwards. How does it feel when you go forward and finally finish the game? What do we learn from this?

5. Cheerful giving badges

You will need: circle of card with words from 2 Corinthians on, felt tip pens, stickers a safety pin and some tape

Take the badge and decorate it with cheerful images, and anything else that will remind you to give cheerfully.

Talk about how wearing your cheerful giving badge is a reminder that God delights in those who give to others out of love and not because they have to.

6. Protecting crops: Scarecrow

You will need: a wooden spoon, googly eyes, paper jacket and trousers to cut out, a felt hat and some packing straw for hair, glue stick, felt tip pens to draw face and scissors to cut out the jacket and trousers.

Talk about how in Malachi 3:11 (NIV), God says, 'I will prevent pests from devouring your crops.' The scarecrow reminds us that God will watch over our crops and all that we do and give to God.