



FAMILY NEWSLETTER

JAN '26 - ISSUE 10

Messy Church in December

Our theme for December was the Christmas story, with a particular focus on the 'messengers of good news'.

An Angel appeared to the father of John the Baptist to foretell Jesus' birth.

An Angel brought Mary the news that she was to carry God's son.

An Angel appeared to Joseph to tell him to take Mary as his wife.

Angels appeared during the night to the shepherds.

There were no rooms at the inns, so Jesus was born in a stable and placed in a manger.

The shepherds visited baby Jesus in the humble settings of the manger in a stable. The wise men followed the star and visited Jesus.

LAST TIME

- We made Trumpets, to proclaim the Good News that Jesus was born.
- We made Angel Plates to represent the heavenly hosts of Angels to welcome the new king.
- We made Candle Baubles, to show the Light of the World.
- We did some Nativity scenes to represent the birth of Christ.
- We made an Angel Triptych to preside over Messy Church and also our Crib Service, using handprints as the Angel's feathers.
- We did Star Prayer.
- We made Biscuit Sheep (they witnessed the Angels too).
- We made Christmas Trees, We use these in modern times to celebrate Christmas Time.
- We had a a Lego Challenge to build something from the Nativity.



The Christmas Story

Jesus, the son of God, was born over 2000 years ago. The story of his birth (called the Nativity) is why Christians celebrate Christmas.

In Nazareth, a young woman called Mary was visited by the Angel Gabriel. He told her that she was going to have a baby boy. He would be called Jesus and he would be God's son.

The Angel Gabriel then appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him not to be afraid.

The Roman Emperor wanted to have a Census (list) of everyone who lived in the country.

Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem. They had to walk for several days.

When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem there was no room left in any of the inns. One innkeeper told Joseph and Mary that they could stay in the stable with his animals.

Just as the angel had said, Mary gave birth and Jesus was born. Mary laid baby Jesus in a manger, (where the animal's food was usually kept).

An Angel appeared to shepherds during the night and spoke to them. They found Jesus in the manger, just like the angel had told them.

They told everyone the good news about this special baby.

Three wise men who studied the stars, saw a new star appear in the sky. They believe this was what was predicted in the old books. That the King of the Jews had been born.

They travelled a long time following this star to meet and worship Jesus. They gave him gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.

Our Messy Church Prayer



Our Father in heaven,
you are awesome.
Show us who you are,
and who you want us to be.
Make earth more like heaven.
Please give us what we need to keep
going each day.
Help us when we are wrong,
and clean us up on the inside.
Help us to forgive others and to move
on.
Keep us from bad stuff.
You're in charge!
You're strong and powerful and
always there. Forever!
YES!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Messy Church - 17th January, 21st February

Worship4Everyone - 25th January, 22nd February

Meet the Team



Gill was one of the founder members of the Messy Church Team at Shirley Parish. Introducing Messy Church to bring the message of Jesus to the children of Shirley.

Gill says;

" Many years ago I was approached by Fr Michael Caddy to accompany him to a church in the Birmingham diocese to learn about their Messy Church. It was Michael's wish to establish this idea in Shirley Parish before he retired. We went and watched and learned. I was asked to organise this new venture, a Messy Church session at Widney Manor School, where I worshipped at Christ the King.

Volunteers came forth and we started on a Saturday morning, myself leading with a very loud whistle to indicate to move from one activity to another.

Gill

We soon learned that the children decided when it was time to move on!

We had a few sessions on Saturdays, and then we were offered a permanent session after school on Thursdays.

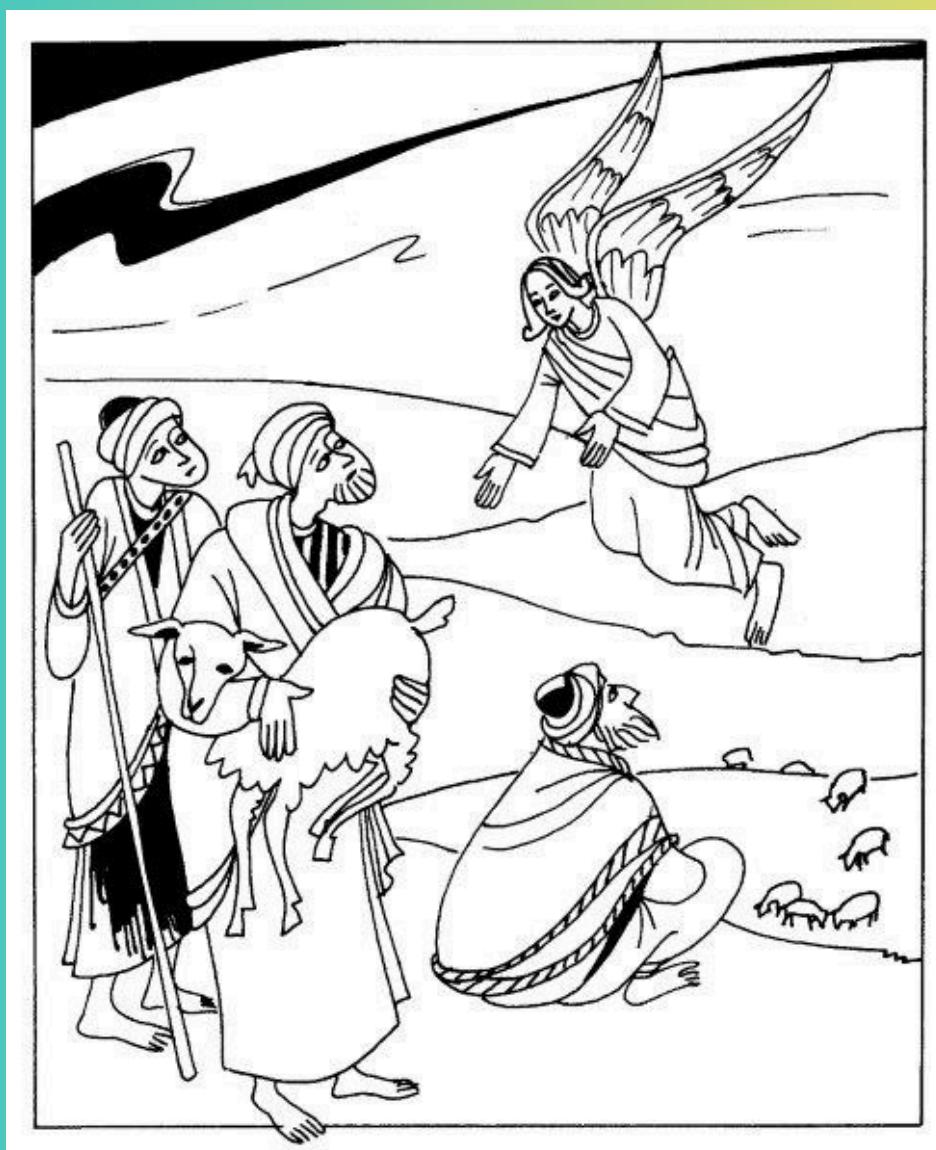
This gave us the opportunity to offer food and volunteers arrived with sandwiches, fruit, jellies and cake. This proved to be a good decision as numbers grew.

We watched our small friendly family grow up and progress through the school years. We were supported by all clergy who enjoyed the sessions as much as the children did.

When Rev Paul and Kate came they wanted to expand and open up Messy Church and for it to be held in a more central location. Thus became our current Messy Church format which I am privileged to be a member of the team.

Together with other original members from the Widney session, we learn with the children and it keeps us active in body, mind and spirit. We have a great team, working together to spread the word. Long may it continue.

Bonds and friendship have been made over the years and it is great to see how people grow in their faith, children, parents family and helpers all."



Wishing you all a Very Happy New Year