

## Report from Messy Church 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018

The last Messy Church of 2018 ended the year on a high; we had seven families, one of them new to Messy Church.

Everyone enjoyed chatting over their porridge and toast, kindly provided by Sue (Offord), which started the session. Michael (Wright) explained the theme 'Loving and Giving' based on the Bible verse "For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son" John 3 : 16. He then pointed out the five different activities and crafts that were on offer, as well as the Playmat with some toys and books.

I was surprised how popular colouring in pictures of the Christmas story was with both children and adults. Several commented how soothing they found it, and they might be hoping for a colouring book for Christmas.

A very different and far more messy activity was printing our own 'Thank you' cards. We poured, blobbed, splashed and swirled thick paint onto a plate, then 'printed' the pattern onto the front of a folded card. The results were very striking and satisfying.

Two cleaner activities were making Christmas tree decorations and cutting out hand shapes (which could be 'adjusted' to make reindeer or camels) and writing a name on them and hanging them on our Prayer tree. This name was of someone who loved the owner of the hand and had given them a memorable gift. As with all our activities, we talked about a relevant subject while working. For the hand shapes we discussed what other ways love can be shared.

A more energetic and noisy activity involved helping Angels to find the shepherds to tell them the Good News. This was by tossing angel-shaped bean bags down the central aisle of All Saints Church to land them on sheep pictures on the floor. Woe betide you if you threw too hard and hit the shepherd behind his sheep. (No sheep, angels or Christmas lights were hurt during this game).

Jane (Charman) then told us all the Christmas story in a wonderfully original way involving Pass the Parcel and Knitted Nativity figures. (These lovely figures were given to St Budock church several years ago. Does anyone remember who made the? They spend most of the year in a box in the Organ loft). With Alan (Offord)'s help we finished with some lively songs and a suggestion that families may want to

undertake a 'Reverse Advent Calendar' over Christmas; buying an extra item every time they go to a supermarket and donating it to the Food Bank.



The next Messy Church will be on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in All Saints Church, Killigrew Street, Falmouth, starting with breakfast at 9.30. We hope to see you there.

Mary Wright.