



Dear Friends,

We hope that you are all keeping well and not too fed up with the lockdown! This month we are focusing on families and celebrating our 9th Birthday. It is such a shame that we can't all be together to celebrate and share some cake.

We hope that you will enjoy the activities, especially the tree. Please send a photo of your tree if you have time. It is important to remember that we are all part of God's family even though we cannot mix easily at this time.

We have included a small gift for each child. This has 9 squares just to remember 9 years since we set up Messy Church at Fareham Methodist Church.

Stay safe and keep well.

With Love from
Jill and the Messy Church Team

The suggested song to watch this month is: "Big family of God"
https://youtu.be/O_vq4iFHavg. There are several versions on YouTube which you may enjoy.



At Home

Happy Birthday!

Matthew 12:46-50 ⁴⁶While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. ⁴⁷Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you." ⁴⁸He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" ⁴⁹Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. ⁵⁰For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

When we were born, we were born into a family. Some have large families and some have small families. When we were born, the first people we come to know and love are those who look after us – who feed us and keep us warm and safe. As we grow we learn more about our families beyond this little group – we learn our place in the larger family and learn to love and care for each other. Our roots in our families give us a strong foundation to spread our branches into the world.

Jesus reminded us that we are also part of a much bigger family – the family of the church. Whoever loves Jesus is automatically part of God's family – and this family must be very large! - We're all part of this family so that we may help each other to love, learn and grow in the world.

In your first family, important anniversaries are celebrated together. The same thing happens in our church family. This month the Messy Church family celebrate our 9th birthday! – and we pray that, by listening to Jesus, God will help us to keep on loving and caring for each other so that we can all continue to grow in his love together.



Happy Birthday to You !

Heavenly Father, we thank you for our families who love and care for us. Make us Happy and Strong together!

AMEN

Activities for February

Make a Family Tree

You will need: a brown paper bag, a pebble or similar shape, heart, leaf or person shapes to cut out, scissors, pens or pencils, sticky dots.

Lay your bag down and make vertical cuts to about half way down your bag:



Now stand the bag up and place a pebble in the bottom to keep it still and twist the bottom of the bag to make a trunk:



Now take the cut pieces and twist them to make branches:



Work at this until you are happy with the shape of your tree:



Now cut out shapes from the coloured paper and write names of family and friends on them. Carefully stick them on the branches to make my Family Tree which is part of God's Family.



Linked hearts

You will need: Heart shape, coloured paper or card, scissors, pens or pencils, sticky tape.

Draw round the heart template, both of the shapes, then cut out the larger heart and then the smaller heart. – see picture. Cut out several and write names of family and friends on them. Cut a slit at the bottom of the heart and link the hearts together. Stick the cut edges back together with sticky tape. Now you can look at your linked hearts and remember that we are all linked together as part of God's family.



Skittle Game

Find 9 (for our 9th birthday!) empty tins or plastic bottles and a soft ball to play a game of skittles with other members of your family and friends.



Recipes

Chocolate chip cupcakes

Ingredients: 2 eggs, 100g Self raising flour, 100g caster sugar, 100g Butter or buttery spread. 100g chocolate chips, 12 large chocolate buttons, 12 cake cases bun tin, birthday candle (optional)

Set the oven to 170 degrees or gas mark 4. Place eggs, sugar, butter and flour in a bowl and beat together with an electric hand mixer or a wooden spoon. Stir in the chocolate chips (as many as you want). Share the mixture between the 12 cases and cook in the oven for 15/20 minutes or until well risen and golden. Remove from the oven and place a chocolate button on top of each cake. It will melt quite quickly so then spread it over the top of the cake.

When the cakes are cool you can add a candle to one and sing Happy Birthday to Messy Church if you wish!



Heart Jam tarts

You will need: 375g short crust pastry – either bought or made, jam, plain flour, heart cutter if possible, a 12 hole bun tin.

Set the oven to 180 degrees or gas mark 5. Roll out the pastry on a floured board and cut circles to fit into the bun tin. Place a heaped teaspoonful of jam into each pastry base. Then roll out the remaining pastry and cut out hearts to place on the top of the jam. Cook in the middle of the oven for 15/20 mins until the pastry is a light golden colour. Cool on a rack and then share them with the family.

The children could make 2 each and keep one and give one away!



I hope that you will enjoy one or both of these recipes.