

Messy Church – September 2020

Harvest

The stories are:

- 1 Genesis 1 – creation
 - a. Lemon pudding
 - b. Origami bird

- 2 Genesis 8 – 9 – after the flood
Drawing the rainbow

- 3 Ruth – this story is in the celebration
 - a. Ears of wheat
 - b. Making stooks

- 4 Ripe fruits for harvest – have you seen?

Stories and Activities

1 Creation

There are two creation stories in the Bible, although most people don't realise it. The famous one, God making the world in 7 days, is in Genesis chapter 1. The Lemon pudding illustrates the first half of day 3, and the origami bird comes from day 5. There is more about creation in the Celebration section.

1(a) Lemon pudding

You will need: the ingredients listed below, and the tools: scales, grater, bowls to separate eggs, tablespoon, mixing bowl and wooden spoon, whisk, roasting tin

4 oz (125g) sugar
2 oz (50g) butter or margarine
1 tablespoon boiling water
2 oz (50g) plain flour
Juice and grated rind of 1 large lemon
2 eggs, separated
8 fl.oz (225ml) milk

1. Using the wooden spoon, cream the sugar and butter in the mixing bowl, adding the boiling water to make the mixture workable
2. Stir in the flour, lemon juice and rind
3. Whisk the egg yolks in the milk and add, a little at a time, to the creamed mixture

4. Beat the egg whites until stiff, and fold them into the mixture
5. Butter a 2 pint (1.1litre) pie dish
6. Pour the pudding mixture into the pie dish
7. Stand the dish in a roasting tin half filled with warm water
8. Bake for 45 minutes in an oven pre-heated to 170°C (325°F)

1(b) origami bird

For the pattern for this, see the pdf file sent with this.

A few points to note:

At 5 in the pattern, you fold the point down as shown, and then fold it up again – you need the crease line only.

At 6 in the pattern, you lift the top flap backwards up to the fold line you made in 5, so that your diamond shape lies flat.

At 7, you repeat 5 on the reverse side, and at 8, you repeat 6, again, on the reverse.

At 9, the whole shape is shown, but it is not clear that the open end is to the left – this needs to be the case,

as you are folding part of the open end in half, to make the narrower neck.

At 14, fold down the wings, as shown, but the bird will flap its wings better if the wings are sticking out from the body.

At 15, you should hold the bird by the base of the neck, so that you are not holding the wings rigidly.

2 After the flood

When it stopped raining, and the water started to go down, the boat Noah, his family and the animals were in grounded on a hillside. As the ground dried up, all the animals and people came out of the boat, and then Noah said thank you to God for saving them. God said to himself that he would never again destroy almost everything because of the way people behaved, and he told Noah that he should not be afraid of rain in the future, because as long as the world lasted, he, God, would remember this promise, that seedtime and harvest would continue. And he put a rainbow in the sky to remind people that God was there, remembering his promise.

You will need: paper and paint and crayons or colouring pens or pencils.

Start by drawing a rainbow in wax crayon across the paper. Then pencil in where you want the mountains and the sky. Paint these with paint that's not too thick and it will not stick to the rainbow which will therefore show through.

Draw the boat on a hillside, and if you want, you can draw Noah and his family, and/or some animals. You could stick pictures on if you don't want to draw them.

3. Ruth

Ruth was not an Israelite, she was a Moabite. She had been married to Naomi's son, when Naomi's family lived in Moab, not Israel, and when Naomi came home because her husband and both her sons had died, Ruth came with her to Bethlehem. They were both widows, and so had no-one to look after them. In the celebration, Clive explains what happened next. In the end, Ruth married Boaz. One of their children was Obed, who was King David's grandfather.

3(a) Ears of wheat

You will need: clay or playdoh or salt dough and a piece of paper or a paper plate.

Shape your dough or clay into ears of corn (see the pictures) and put them on the paper or plate.



3(b) Making stooks

When corn (wheat, or barley) was cut in Bible times, it was cut with a sickle or a scythe (a sickle was short handled, and a scythe long handles), by hand. There was no such thing as a combine harvester.

The corn was cut, and left in piles in long rows. After the men with scythes or sickles would come other men, who would gather up armsful of the cut corn, and tie it in bundles, arranging the bundles in groups, standing up, so the corn heads would dry, ready for winnowing and eventually grinding to make flour.

Have you got any grass with seed heads in your garden, or in a nearby verge of a field? Pick some stalks, and tie them together in a bunch, using another stalk for the cord. If you can do several bunches, you could try standing them up, leaning against each other, like the second picture.



4. Harvest fruit list

Have you seen any of the following growing wild or growing in your garden?

Rose hips

Hawthorn berries (haws)

Blackberries

Sloes

Elderberries

Acorns

Chestnuts

Hazel nuts

Apples

Cherries

Damsons

Plums

Pears

Some fruits are really nice to eat, but some are poisonous – be sure you know which are which.

Have you grown anything in your garden that you have or can eat?

Celebration

This is our Harvest Messy Church. I like to sing along to the Harvest Samba <https://youtu.be/NTdIrITIXks>

We have used three stories for harvest. The first is about creation. We don't know how God created everything, we just know he did. We know that the world started as dust, chaotically, and then became a hot lump, which cooled down. Eventually it rained, and seas formed, separated from the land. Plants and animals came, and finally people. So we have a favourite lemon pudding, which separates as you cook it, like the land and sea separate, and paper birds who's wings flap. These are difficult enough to make. Imagine making the real thing!

The second story is Noah. God sent the flood, and afterwards Noah thanked God that he and his family and the animals were saved, and able to start again. I often have to start again when I'm doing something. It goes wrong, and sometimes I can't just put it right. Sometimes, for example, if you are drawing, you get it wrong and you can't just change a little bit, but have to start again.

God responded to Noah by sending a rainbow, like we drew, and said that while the earth lasted there would always be a harvest. Rainbows are beautiful, which is why so many people like to use them as a sign, but you don't get the beauty without rain.

Our last story is from Ruth. In those days, if there was no-one to look after a widow, she would go hungry, so the Israelites had a system. They let widows and orphans follow the harvest and pick up all the grain that was dropped by the people doing the harvest, who weren't allowed to pick it themselves. Ruth went to do this, which is when she met Boaz, who she married. This part of the story should remind us to take care of people who can't take care of themselves. We usually do this in the church by giving our harvest offering to "All We Can", which is the Methodist development charity.

Prayer

Thank you, God for creating our beautiful world, and making it so it provides the things we need. Help us to look after it, and to share the good thing around, so everyone can have something.

Amen

Another favourite harvest song is Cauliflowers fluffy
<https://youtu.be/PukdaXUzgOU>

Enjoy our celebration.

Then have tea or a treat if it isn't tea time!

If you send me pictures of anything you do, I will share them on the Church Facebook page (if you want to send pictures that you don't want shared, just tell me. I'll only share the one's you're happy to share.)

Harlington Messy Church Team

There will be a YouTube version, but Tina and I are running later than ever this month. Look out for it on the Harlington Methodist Church YouTube Channel.
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTMWR_QCxujkh1zHjTFcoJw/videos