**Messy Church – June 2022**

**Fish**

The activities are:

1. Mosaic fish
2. Clay fish
3. Sand fish
4. Fish picture
5. Fish in a net – food activity
6. Fish biscuits – food activity
7. Boat (in the celebration)

**Stories and Activities**

There are a number of stories about fish in the Bible, most of them in the New Testament, and most of them involving Jesus.

1. Jesus told Peter to go and catch a fish when he needed to pay his temple tax, and in the fish’s mouth was a coin to pay the tax (Matthew chapter 17, verses24 to 27). When Jesus fed five thousand people, part of the meal was fish (Matthew chapter 14, verses 13 to 21, Mark chapter 6, verses 30 to 44, Luke chapter 9, verses 10 to 17, and John chapter 6 verses 1 to 14).

There are two stories that involve lots of fish. One of them was very early on during the time that we call "his ministry", the time he spent talking to, and healing, people. He had been talking to a crowd on the beach of Lake Galilee, and they had almost pushed him into the water, so he got into a fishing boat, and talked from there. When the crowd went away, he asked the fishermen to sail out a little way into the lake and catch some fish. They laughed at him, and said they had been fishing all night and had caught nothing. He asked again, and they agreed. They caught so many fish, they had to ask their friends in another boat to come and help. There were so many fish that they filled both boats to overflowing. At the end of the story, Jesus asks the fishermen to come with him, to be fishers of men, not fishers of fish, and they agree – the first four disciples. (Luke chapter 5, verses 1 to 11.)

The second story that involves lots of fish comes right at the end of the story of Jesus’ time on earth. It is after Easter, after the Resurrection. The disciples are fishing on Lake Galilee at night again. As the sun comes up, they see someone on the beach, with a small fire. A voice calls them and asks “Have you caught anything?” They say no, and the voice suggests they throw the net out on the other side of the boat. They do, and very quickly it is full of fish, too full for the boat. John tells Peter that it is Jesus on the beach, and Peter jumps overboard, grabbing his tunic, which he had taken off. The other disciples bring the boat in, dragging the net behind them. When they get to the shore, they see that there are fish cooking on the fire, and bread. Jesus asks them to bring some of the fish they have caught, and they pull the net in. The Bible says there were 153 fish in the net. Jesus and his disciples eat fish and bread for breakfast. (John chapter 21, verses 1 to 14.)

Almost all our activities today are making fish!

**Talk about:** the importance of food, the different types of food. What eating fish can provide in our diet that we don’t get in other sorts of food.

Different sorts of fish taste different – think about how many kinds of fish you have eaten, or could eat. Can you think of 153 sorts of fish?

**1 Mosaic fish**

**You will need:** paper to draw on, and paper to cut up – perhaps scraps of coloured paper, if you have them, pencils, scissors, glue

“Mosaic” is a way of making pictures with small squares of different colours – paper in this case – but also tiles, or coloured glass.

Draw a fish on your piece of paper – if you make it about the size of the paper, you will be able to make a good mosaic. Cut the other paper into squares, and glue them in patterns onto the fish – even if you don’t have different colours, you can make patterns.

**2 Clay fish**

**You will need:** air drying clay, a little water in a bowl or saucer, paint and paint brush, and more water to clean the brush

Shape a lump of clay into a fish shape. While you are doing the shaping, keep your hands and the clay damp. When the fish is finished, leave it to dry, and then paint it

**3 Sand fish**

**You will need:** a piece of paper, pencil, glue, sand in different colours, a tray (or larger piece of paper) to work in

Draw a fish on your piece of paper. Mark different areas (the face, the fins, perhaps stripes on the body). Spread glue on one area at a time, and, with your picture on the tray or larger piece of paper, sprinkle sand onto that area until it is covered. Tip the extra sand onto your tray, and put it back into the container. Spread glue over the next piece you want to cover, and repeat the process until the whole fish is decorated in sand.

**4 Fish picture**

**You will need:** a large sheet of lining paper (or, at home, a large piece of whatever paper you have), blue paint if you want to make it look like under the sea, or use blue paper!), paper to cut out fish shapes, pencils, scissors, paint or felt tip pens, glue

If you want to paint your background blue, do it first. Then draw and cut out fish shapes – you could do lots of different shapes – and colour them. Glue them to your background to make a picture of fish in the sea.

To make a different picture, you could draw a boat on the water, with a net in the water, and put your fish in the net.

You could draw the fish, rather than cutting them out!

**5 Fish in a net – food activity**

**You will need:** ice cream wafers, squirty icing, fish sweets (or use the biscuits in the next activity!), paper plate. For the water, use blue food colouring and icing sugar – make it very thin!

Put two ice cream wafers side by side on your plate. Use the squirty icing to draw a net on the wafers. Put your fish sweets or biscuits on the net.

If you want to make the plate look like water, you could use very thin icing coloured blue, before you put the ice cream wafters on the plate. Be careful eating this version, as the wafers will be wet on one side!

**6 Fish biscuits**

**You will need:** either of the two recipes supplied – both make biscuits that can be rolled and cut out, plus the ingredients required, and either a fish shaped cutter, or a knife (it doesn’t have to be a sharp knife) and a fish template (make the template from clean card, put it on the rolled out dough, and cut round it)

Make the biscuits as said in the recipe.

**Celebration**

Sing Jesus love is very wonderful <https://youtu.be/WcgplHIntJc>

When Jesus was 30, he started preaching and teaching. The first thing he did was to go to the River Jordan to find his cousin, John. John had been there by the river, talking to people. He told them how bad they were and that someone special was coming and that they’d better get ready. Those who wanted to change went to John and he dipped them in the river. This was a Jewish form of baptism and it stood for washing away of wrong things. Jesus asked John to baptise him, and, although he argued that it should be the other way round, he did. Andrew, Peter’s brother, saw Jesus there.

Back in Galilee Jesus was by the lakeside talking to people. A crowd gathered and Jesus asked Peter and Andrew, who were fishermen, if he could use their boat. They said that he may as well, they hadn’t caught anything all night, so it wasn’t doing them much good.

Make a boat using the card pattern, sticking it onto blue card to be like the lake. If you have time, add a mast and a sail.

Jesus talked to the crowd, and afterwards he told Peter to go out into the deeper water and catch some fish. Peter said that they had fished all night and not caught anything, but he agreed to do it. Well, as soon as he did the net filled with fish, so many that the boat couldn’t hold them. Peter and Andrew called to their friends for help, and together they got the fish back to shore.

Draw a lot of fish. Can you draw them in a pattern?

The whole thing frightened Peter, and for a moment he wanted Jesus to go away, but Jesus told him that he wanted Peter to come with him and become a “fisher of men”. So Peter became a follower of Jesus and went around with him.

Song Big man standing by the blue waterside <https://youtu.be/qDX_lxHdg6Y>

Prayer

Dear God, help us to follow you and do what you want, even when we don’t think that what you want can work. Help us to be real disciples.

Amen

Song I will make you fishers of men <https://youtu.be/KL7uV5jF8Rk>

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

We’ll have a Zoom meeting open for those who can’t come to the church. Our end of Zoom will go on YouTube during the celebration, but we won’t put pictures from your end on. Contact me if you want the link for Zoom. Look out for the broadcast on the Harlington Methodist Church YouTube Channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTMWR_QCxujkh1zHjTFcoJw/videos>