

# Messy Family Fun

A holiday club for all the family

Includes  
Fun Day  
outline



Lucy Moore



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**Lucy Moore**

# Contents

How our first Messy Family Fun Club came about .....	9
Why run an all-age holiday club? .....	10
Suggestions for follow-up .....	13
Team roles.....	14
Programme and timings .....	15
FAQs.....	19
<b>Five-day Messy Family Fun Club</b>	
Overview of the week .....	22
Day 1: Jesus' stories.....	23
Day 2: Jesus' friends .....	31
Day 3: Jesus' miracles.....	36
Day 4: Jesus and prayer.....	42
Day 5: Jesus dies and rises again.....	47
<b>One-day Messy Family Fun Day</b>	
Overview of the day .....	54
Stories of other Messy Church-related holiday clubs .....	59
Epilogue.....	64
<b>Downloadable appendices</b>	
Publicity for team recruitment.....	66
Team sign-up sheet .....	67
Young helpers form .....	68
Publicity for families .....	69
Booking form.....	70
Risk assessment form.....	72
Safeguarding policy .....	74
Daily planning sheet.....	76
Daily activity planner .....	77
Templates .....	79
Table instruction sheets .....	82
Index of activities.....	96

This should be going on in more churches,  
to **involve families.**

DAWN LEANING

It's an amazing thing for children. My kids always  
have fun in a **safe and friendly environment.**

JODIE JOSEPH

It was great to **bring people from  
the community together.**

THE HAMMERTON FAMILY

Very entertaining, lots to do, **good fun.**

TRACEY HAMMERTON

Nice to come and relax, have a cup of tea. Food for the  
children, time to socialise. **Something for every age.**

LIZ DARBYSHIRE

If one of the values of a 'mission-shaped church' is that it  
should be related to its context, then the Messy Family Fun Club  
has added huge value to our church life. **Nothing else we've  
tried has had anything like the same impact.**

REVD DR ALEX HUGHES

# How our first Messy Family Fun Club came about

This starts off as a very Anglican story, but I hope you'll see how the end result can be used in any setting, just as Messy Church itself is used by all the main Christian denominations.

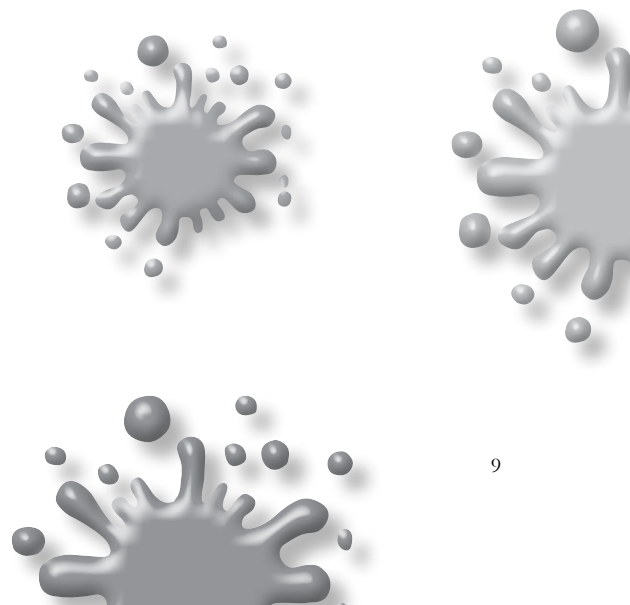
A generous man called William Groves died and left an unexpectedly large legacy to Portsmouth Cathedral. The Cathedral Chapter (the cathedral's governing body) felt that it would be right to spend the money on more than drainpipes and roof tiles, essential though those are. They asked the Dean (in charge of the day-to-day running of the cathedral), David Brindley, to use some of it to further outreach to children and young people.

The Dean asked me, as a Lay Canon of the cathedral—duties unclear to me except that I got to wear a very posh Hogwarts-esque robe on occasion and could presumably have been fired (canon, get it? Never mind...) by the bishop if the worst came to the worst—to suggest how we might use the money to fund some sort of Messy outreach work to families and young people. He also wondered if it would be possible to work not just in the cathedral but in one of the churches in Portsmouth city centre (St Peter's)

that lacked the financial resources to make something like this happen on its own. Could we run a holiday club for families along the lines of Messy Church, but every day for a week rather than once a month?

Could we indeed? The Dean and the staff of St Peter's chatted and got excited. I stuck a pencil in my ear and pondered. The BRF team added their wisdom, ideas and encouragement and, after many meetings and much planning, some heartache but surprisingly little pain (at least, no one told me about any), our first Messy Family Fun Club ran in the Easter holiday of 2013.

This resource is the product of that event and draws together the experiences and wisdom of the generous people who gave up their time and skills to get messy with us. Of course, we were by no means the first church to run an all-age holiday club, and I'm very grateful to those who have contributed their own stories, materials and plans to add value to your own ministry. We'll collect more suggestions on the website and on the 'Messy Church Mag' Facebook page as time goes by and the ideas are refined.



# Why run an all-age holiday club?

Why didn't we simply advertise a traditional five-day event for children and draw on the huge amount of high-quality material already available?

Well, one of the reasons why Messy Church started in the first place, in 2004, was our observation that the families of the children who go to a church's holiday club rarely want any more connection with the church apart from free childminding for that week. So the good seed that has been sown in helping children make a step towards Jesus falls all too often into the rocky part of the field (to use Jesus' parable in Luke 8), as children return home and receive no encouragement to pursue their journey. The parent or carer has not taken part in the experience and cannot provide help as a fellow traveller on the journey, and the family's values may be a million miles away from the values that the children have been exploring at the holiday club.

*But...* if the whole family could come on a journey together towards Jesus—if they could all see the love of God in action in their local church and share the same experience of lives being transformed—surely there would be more chance of the seed taking root?

Portsmouth Cathedral was giving us the chance to take Messy Church back to its moment of germination and devise a holiday club package that would bring parents, carers, grandparents and other significant adults together with their children to go on a life-changing journey. It was time to reinvent.

As I've said, we were by no means the first Messy Church team to run a holiday club with the values of Messy Church. The website ([www.messychurch.org.uk](http://www.messychurch.org.uk)) had gathered news of several happening in different parts of the country, but nothing I had read about so far was quite what we were trying to do. One Messy Church holiday club had developed from a very successful long-running Churches Together children-only holiday club. In order to remain in line with what families had been expecting each summer, the team sensibly decided to invite younger children to come accompanied by an adult, and older children to come on their own. Their programme ran Messy Church with the family groups while the unaccompanied children were given a choice of sport, art, drama or dance workshops; everyone then came together at the end of the week. However, we didn't need to take into account any expectations based on an established approach. We had a clean slate, so we decided that, just

as in Messy Church itself, all children would need to be accompanied unless they were helping on the team.

Running Messy Church on consecutive days presented certain challenges. We realised that there would be a different dynamic when the sessions were so close to each other. A daily Messy Family Fun Club would feel more like a holiday club than the monthly Messy Church: it wouldn't be tied to school finishing times, nobody would be in uniform, no one would be in a hurry to arrive or to leave and there'd be a little more pressure to keep the energy up. Could we find a way to hold on to the values and main elements while making the most of the more focused community to add something different—something that would also serve to maintain a high level of energy, engagement and commitment?

## Advantages of the Messy Family Fun Club

A Messy Family Fun Club is great fun for families and for the team. It's an opportunity to make friendships, to explore the story of Jesus and to encounter him in the Bible-based activities, in the love of God's people, in the stranger, in prayer and worship and around meal tables. These are all healthy signs of the kingdom of God. It's an opportunity for the church to welcome members of the wider community and help them to have ownership of their local church. It's a chance for families to enjoy learning new skills, expressing their creativity in a safe space, getting a satisfying meal and experiencing firsthand what a church community can be like.

This is true of a normal Messy Church, but a Messy Family Fun Club may well work on a more intense level and speed up the pace and progress of all these developments. It also offers freedom to build more closely on the ideas of the previous days, as people are more likely to remember them than if they were presented a month ago. Learning songs and prayers is likewise much easier. A Messy Family Fun Club is a chance to provide holiday activities for the families in your neighbourhood who don't have the resources to get away for a break, and food for those who are living on the edge of poverty.

Additionally:

- It's an opportunity for families who can't make it to a normal Messy Church to join in the church community (for example, if the children are usually away at school or parents are working).
- There's more chance that the day's activities and learning will be talked, sung or prayed about at home if the adults have taken part in it too.
- The ratio of leaders to families is not as stringent as it is for a children-only club.
- Leaders are responsible only for their part in the programme, not for looking after the children.
- It's an opportunity to develop a more demanding piece of artwork throughout the week, with elements being added each day. For example, you might consider making a banner, flags or a sculpture, using papier mâché, modelling with Modroc, or making paper, crystal gardens, a proper prayer tree or 'stained-glass' windows—all those fun activities that can never be finished in time at a normal Messy Church.
- There's scope to do slightly more 'risky' activities, as parents/carers can always keep their children away from them if they wish.
- First aiders will be less busy than at an ordinary holiday club, as a parent is more likely than a leader to say, 'Pull yourself together! It's only a bump! I'll kiss it better!' and other bracing and medicinal words that reduce the need for an incident to be recorded in the Accident Book.
- Adults need to play in order to be balanced human beings. Why should children have all the fun?

## Disadvantages of the Messy Family Fun Club

Essentially, most of the pros and cons that apply to Messy Church, with its all-age format, apply to the Messy Family Fun Club too.

- Some families won't be able to come, as parents will be working or the whole family will be away on holiday.
- It runs the risk of attracting only very young families.
- It doesn't provide childcare.
- Putting on a range of activities that includes adults is more difficult than finding activities for children only.
- All-age celebrations are more challenging than children-only ones.

- Some adults try to dissociate themselves from the activities and celebration, becoming an emotional drain on the community.
- Some leaders feel shy about introducing an activity to adults and are worried about being criticised.
- Some leaders try to treat the club as an educational experience rather than an opportunity for worship and fun. This attitude can express itself in directive leading that makes adults feel infantilised.

## If you already run a Messy Church

The Messy Family Fun Club is a wonderful way to fast-track friendships that are inevitably built slowly at a once-a-month gathering. You might finally disentangle which brother is Josh and which is Dan, or remember the difference between the cousins Tia and Lucia, if you see them every day for a week! It will also encourage the families to feel more ownership of the monthly Messy Church. I can imagine people volunteering to join the team or suggesting their own ideas more readily if they are having daily contact with the team for five days.

A Messy Family Fun Club is an opportunity to:

- intentionally pray for and work with families who you sense may be wanting something more than the monthly Messy Church can offer.
- invite your regular families to help lead an activity as a one-off, to take the first steps in joining the team.
- build on any gifts and talents you've observed in the families or team, such as drama, music or dance, and plan activities round these talents.
- learn new songs and prayers.
- have one table each day dedicated to an overt faith development opportunity (such as Table Talk, Quiz the Vicar, Auntie Pat's Problem Corner or Extreme Craft) and see if any have the potential to be continued at Messy Church itself.

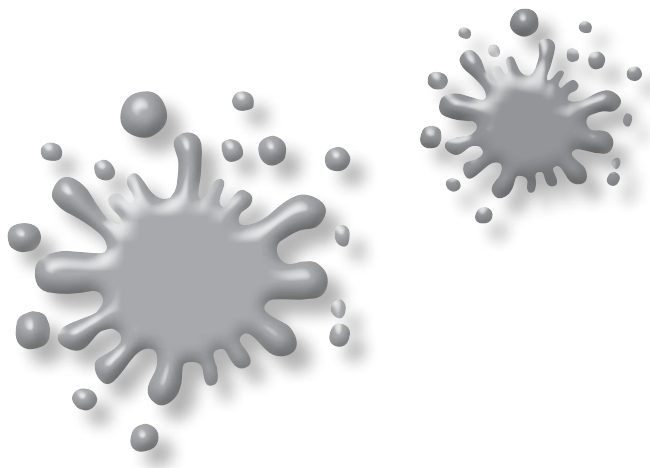
## If you don't already run a Messy Church

If, like Portsmouth Cathedral and St Peter's, you haven't yet started a Messy Church, a holiday club is a great way of showcasing what it's going to feel like and to start the Messy Church with a sense of community, from working with families you already know.



A Messy Family Fun Club is an opportunity to:

- get to know people relatively quickly and earn goodwill and trust.
- create a community with the values, boundaries and behaviours you need to develop in your future Messy Church.
- listen to what families need from the church.
- gauge what the families and team have to offer by way of skills, resources and equipment.
- make a monthly Messy Church seem ridiculously easy by comparison!



\*

# Overview of the week

Our week's theme was, quite simply, Jesus. The five consecutive days meant that we could build up a picture of him using well-known stories. We felt that, although we were looking at up to ten different stories about Jesus every day, this wouldn't be confusing, as so many of the stories were familiar to the families, at least in broad-brush terms. Stories could be told briefly at the activity tables and the MC could explore one in greater depth during the celebration at the end of the morning.

We aimed to remind people of what they already knew and throw in some stories that they might have forgotten or never encountered. We covered a great deal, but you can learn a lot when you're having fun. One grandmother on the team said she was amazed at how much her eight-year-old granddaughter had learned during the day as she chatted about it at home in the evening.

## Day 1: Jesus' stories

The familiar, funny, friendly, superficially non-threatening nature of the parables is a good place to start when families are coming into a strange environment on the first day. It gives them gentle stories and themes to start with, however subversive the parables may be when you dig a little deeper.

## Day 2: Jesus' friends

Jesus was fully human and was surrounded by friends who offer us models of discipleship (as well as anti-models, showing us what not to do). Again, many of the names and stories may be familiar, though somewhat buried in the memory banks. These accounts of how Jesus related to the people around him show us his priorities and preoccupations. Through the way he treated his friends, we start to see what sort of a person he was himself.

## Day 3: Jesus' miracles

Jesus was also fully God, and halfway through the week we see him doing things that disturb our expectations and evoke awe and wonder. We start moving into the more obvious examples of the supernatural in his life.

## Day 4: Jesus and prayer

Jesus' most important relationship was the one he had with his Father, and he worked on this relationship through prayer. In this session we explore what prayer is and how to do it.

## Day 5: Jesus dies and rises again

Our Messy Family Fun Club was held at Easter, so it made perfect sense for us to explore the Good Friday/Easter story and take the festival to a level beyond chocolate. At any other time of year, the impact might be even greater as families start to make the link between the commercial Easter that they experienced months ago and the real celebration. The whole of Jesus' life—his stories, miracles and dealings with others—comes to a climax in this one great act of power and love.

# Overview of the day

This day-long session is a stand-alone session and could be used if you want to do something similar to a full five-day Messy Family Fun Club but can't pull the team together or book a building for that length of time.

The theme for the session is 'Party Animals' and explores some of the different parties that Jesus went to or told stories about. It explores Jesus as someone who lives life to the full, is generous, welcomes everyone and brings communities together to enjoy themselves. Did you know that the word 'party' comes from the Latin word for 'to share'?

The suggested outline is different from the week's programme, as a single day has a different dynamic. It's much more laid-back and less structured, on the grounds that, if a family goes to a Family Fun Day run by their local park, council or community group, it will be in a nice venue with different activities and entertainment going on but not a strict timetable that they have to adhere to.

A one-off day gives the team permission to be more relaxed about 'organising' the families. It simply provides a safe space in which they can enjoy themselves together and explore the day's theme on a level that suits them—more of a drop-in event than an 'arrive at X o'clock and leave at Y o'clock' event. The team doesn't need to have a professional, confident leader or group up front, but there is scope for the day to have more of a focus than if it were just a fête. It also allows space for families to get to know each other around the activities, and leaders should find that they have more time and space to chat to people and start to make friendships than they would at a more tightly organised event.

The range of activities may be inviting for single adults who have come without children. The day will feel more like an event to 'set out your stall'—showcasing your values and attitudes, introducing yourselves as a church and inviting people to other events—than a teaching session.

The programme is simple:

- All day: Messy Church-type activities, including some that take longer than usual to complete
- Ongoing free play corner with sand, water, toys, paint, paper and bubbles
- Lunch: family barbecue
- Afternoon: activities continue alongside a programme of entertainment, with an emphasis on taking part
- Final 'parade' of everything made or practised during the day
- Afternoon tea and cake

## Ongoing activities

### Party accessories

#### You will need

Old jeans; needles and thread; sewing machine if you have enough people to supervise; sewing scissors; trimmings (buttons, sequins, patches, stick-on shapes and so on)

Cut the legs off the jeans just above the crotch. Turn the jeans inside out and sew the bottom edges together to make a bag.

From the discarded legs, cut two straps (long or short) and sew them into the bag. Some people may prefer to sew unhemmed strips of fabric on as straps. Other people may prefer to spend time making properly edged straps by making a 'sausage' of fabric, sewn together inside out, then turned the right way out and sewn on to the bag.

Turn the bag the right way out and decorate with trimmings.

Talk about the way you might take this bag to a party, and about the way lots of Jesus' parables ended with parties. Can you think of any? Remember the parables of the lost coin, the lost sheep and the prodigal son?

## People parties

### You will need

A range of small sellable craft item ideas and the materials to make them—for example, coin purses, marshmallow pingers, party animal jam jars, felt animals, stone creatures (see below)

Make something you can sell in a silent auction during the afternoon, to raise money to help other people. Give the money to a charity that helps others, so that your party will go on beyond the day and beyond your own group of people.



This could be an opportunity to do activities you've wanted to do at Messy Church but which have never matched the theme.

## Coin purses

To make coin purses, see page 26.

## Marshmallow pinger

Tie a knot in an uninflated round balloon and cut off about 3 cm from the top so that you're left with the knotted part. Take a yoghurt pot or plastic cup and cut off the bottom so that you're left with an open-ended cylinder. Stretch the balloon over the sturdiest end, with the knot on the outside, to make a 'trampoline'.

When selling the cup, include a little pack of mini marshmallows. To use, place one marshmallow in the cup, resting on the stretched balloon, pull back the knot and fire the marshmallow out.

## Party animal jam jars

Beforehand, glue-gun or superglue plastic animals or other shapes to the lids of jam jars. Invite people to come and paint both the jar lid and the animal in the same colour acrylic paint and, when dry, screw the lid back on the jar to make an attractive container. You could put a packet of sweets in the jar to sell it.

## Felt animals

Using templates, cut two simple animal or bird shapes roughly 7 cm long, out of felt. Sew the pair of shapes together using blanket stitch. Stuff slightly, sew up completely and attach a thread for hanging.

## Stone creatures

Glue googly eyes on to a stone and draw a face on it with a Sharpie pen or permanent marker.

## Drink windows

### You will need

Black A4 card or sturdy black paper; pencils; rulers; scissors; glue; tissue paper; pictures of cocktails or mocktails

Invite people to cut a glass shape out of the card's centre (fold it in half lengthways and draw half the glass shape along the fold, then cut out the double thickness). Cut or rip pieces of coloured tissue paper and stick them across the empty glass shape to make a multi-layered cocktail picture.

At a wedding that Jesus and his friends attended, there weren't cocktails but there was wine—and even that ran out. What do you think Jesus did? Tell the story from John 2.

## Calligraphy party invitations

### You will need

Scrap paper; 'nice' paper; calligraphy pens and ink (or felt-tip calligraphy pens); rulers; pencils; erasers; sample alphabets printed out; someone who can teach calligraphy

Practise writing in calligraphy on scrap paper until you feel confident to design an invitation. It can be an invitation of any sort: if you're stuck for an idea, why not design an invitation to the next Messy Church to give to a friend?

Talk about the parable of the great banquet (Luke 14:15–24), and how God's invitation to his party is for everyone.

## Wedding costumes

### You will need

A range of dressing-up clothes for weddings from different cultures; newspapers; sticky tape; stapler; crêpe paper; coloured paper; scissors; floral wire; air-drying clay; string

Dress up as a bridesmaid, make yourself a wedding hat from newspaper, put together a wedding bouquet or make an oil lamp for a wedding in the old days.

## Wedding hat

Spread three sheets of newspaper unevenly over someone's head and wrap sticky tape several times round (as if making the hat fit) to make a base. Fold or scrunch up the edges as tightly or as loosely as you fancy and staple them in place. Decorate with crêpe paper flowers and homemade feathers as desired.

## Paper flowers

Draw a spiral on a square of coloured paper and cut it out roughly along the lines. Wind it into itself so that it looks like a rose. Pinch together at the base and tape together. Add floral wire as a stem.

Talk about the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids (Matthew 25:1–13) and how they needed oil lamps for weddings in Jesus' day because the celebrations went on late into the night. Weddings take a lot of preparation even today: it's important to be ready for a big event.

## Party pompoms

### You will need

Lots of coloured tissue paper; gift ribbon; scissors

Place about six sheets of tissue paper on top of each other and concertina-fold them all the way down (across the width) so that you end up with a fat pleat of paper about 4 cm wide. Fold it in half to find the centre spot, make a small notch on either side of the pleat and tie a piece of ribbon around it, fitting it into the notches. Tie the ribbon into a loop as a handle.

At this point you can trim the ends of the paper into a different shape or frill (or petal or point) if you want. Gently ease out the different layers from each other until your pompom is nice and fat. Hold on to the ribbon handle and use during the afternoon entertainment.

Talk about the way God's people have always enjoyed praising God in praise parties using dance and music.

## Zacchaeus' chocolate tiffin

### You will need

225 g Rich Tea or digestive biscuits; 100 g margarine; 1 tbsp golden syrup; 2 tsp Fairtrade cocoa powder; chocolate icing; paper bun cases; a microwave; bowls; spoons; rolling pins; plastic bags

Make this instant cake. Crush the biscuits by putting them in plastic bags and rolling them with a rolling pin. Melt the margarine and syrup in the microwave (adult supervision needed) and mix with the crushed biscuits and cocoa powder. Press the mixture into bun cases and put chocolate icing on top. Refrigerate if not eating straight away.

Zacchaeus would have needed some very quick recipes to make tea, the day Jesus invited himself round (Luke 19:1–10). He really wasn't expecting such an important guest.

## Dangly party decorations

### You will need

Clean two-litre plastic bottles; sticky-backed plastic; coloured tape or permanent markers; glue; glitter; scissors; thread or ribbon

Decorate a bottle as brightly as you can with the sticky-backed plastic, tape and pens. Then draw on a spiral all the way round the bottle and cut it out, cutting off the base but leaving the neck part attached at the top. Tie a piece of thread or ribbon on to the neck to hang it up by. Slush on some glue, roll the bottle in glitter and hang it up to decorate the party.

Talk about how, in the parable of the great banquet, the king made careful preparations for his party so that his guests would have a lovely time. How did he feel when they made excuses not to come?

## Pamper corner

### You will need

Nail varnish; body butter; massage oils; foot lotion; towels; wipes

There are further ideas in the May–August 2013 issue of *Get Messy!* ('Calming the storm' session).

Have some pampering on offer for anyone who would like it (not only women).

Tell people the story of the party when a woman burst in, poured perfume over Jesus' feet and dried them with her hair. Have you ever been at a party where something surprising happened?

Health  
and  
safety

Beware of allergies.

## Last Supper miniature kits

### You will need

Small tins of the sort used for mints or tobacco; yellow, white and grey air-drying clay (or paint, if you don't have coloured clay); modelling tools; old white hankies; large white sticky labels

Using the clay, make a tiny cup, a plate with bread on it, candlesticks (if desired) and four small cubes to act as table legs. The tin will become a table when balanced on the four 'legs'. Cut a tablecloth out of an old hanky to cover the tin. Make everything small enough to fit inside the tin with the lid shut. Decorate the paper label and stick it over the lid.

Describe Jesus' last and best party, and invite people to retell the story using their own kit.

## Easy origami stars

### You will need

A4 paper, cut into strips about 2.5 cm wide; string or jars or vases and pea sticks (optional)

Go online and look up 'origami lucky paper stars tutorial'. There are lots of designs, and the one that looks small and puffy and is sometimes called a 'lucky star' is very

easy to make. Make lots of them, string them in a line as decorations or fill a jar with them or tape them on top of pea sticks in a vase.

Talk about how much fun it is to have parties and how Jesus loved going to parties.

## Decorating cupcakes

### You will need

Fairy cakes; icing; decorations; pictures for inspiration (an image search on 'cupcakes fish' will give you more than enough)

Invite people to decorate a fairy cake suitable for a party with lots of fishermen.

Talk about the way Martha and Mary made Jesus and his friends (many of whom were fishermen) welcome in their home. Talk about the friends you like to invite to your home.

## Vegetable party animals

### You will need

Vegetables; cocktail sticks; googly eyes

Invite people to design the funkiest 'party animal' they can out of vegetables.

Who is the best human 'party animal' you know? Why do you think people were desperate for Jesus to come to their parties?

## Musical instruments

Use tubes and bottles, metal lids, boxes, elastic bands and so on to make handheld instruments such as shakers, rain sticks, scrapers, cymbals and plucked 'guitars'.

Alternatively, make larger-scale instruments:

- Hang pots and pans or planks or metal pipes up on ropes and bang them with sticks.
- Make carpet roll-sized rain sticks.
- Make drums out of dustbins.
- Stretch lengths of elastic over wheelie bins to pluck.
- Fill jars and bottles with different amounts of water. Tap the bottles or blow over them.

Talk about whether you prefer quiet or noisy parties.

## Party prayer zones

- Cocktail umbrella prayers: Write the name of someone you want to pray for on a block of playdough using a sharp tool. Take a cocktail umbrella, open it up and stick it into the playdough as a sign that God's love is sheltering that person.
- Firework party prayers: Make a backdrop of a night sky with firework rockets soaring across it. On a strip of metallic paper, write or draw a prayer for someone you love. Now make the paper into a star (see the 'Easy origami stars' activity on page 57) and glue it to the backdrop near a firework.
- Beach party prayer stones: Write a 'sorry' prayer on a pebble, using chalk, and drop it into a bowl or pool of water. Come and look for it later, and see how the pebble has been washed clean.
- Pyjama party prayers: Pick a teddy bear and, as you cuddle it, read the prayer on the label around its neck (written in advance by somebody else).
- Tea party prayers: Write 'God' on one side of a small felt heart with a marker pen and 'U' on the other. Carefully remove the tag from a teabag-on-a-string and replace it with the heart, stapling it on. Put the teabag back in its sachet and ask God who he would like you to give it to.
- Learn a dance: Invite someone to teach some basic street dance moves.
- Learn a song: Use the musical instruments made at the activity table.
- Costume parade: Set up a catwalk and model the hats and flowers made in the wedding activity above.
- Circus skills: Try juggling, diabolo, plate spinning, unicycling and so on.
- Messy challenges: Wheel in youth leaders or look up 'messy games for youth groups' on the internet. There are amazing quantities of really messy games involving jelly, porridge, sponges, baked beans or even just water. Choose those that you feel only faintly nervous about. Have mops, clean-up facilities and spare dry clothes available.
- Big scribble art challenge: On very large sheets of paper, draw very large scribbles. The challenge is for each team to turn their scribble into a picture, using paints or pens, in three minutes. The winner is the best picture.
- Trafalgar triangle: This is a two-minute talent show or soapbox. In Trafalgar Square, the Fourth Plinth is left empty for anyone to book time on it and do whatever they like from the top of it (within reason). Offer the opportunity to have two minutes on your own plinth. Make sure rent-a-crowd is ready to applaud wildly at the end of each two-minute offering.
- Silent auction of crafts for local charity: Set out all the items you have made for sale in the activity above, with a sheet of wide-spaced lined paper taped next to each one and lots of pens available. Make it clear that the auction is to raise money for a good cause. Explain to everyone that they have 20 minutes (or less if there isn't much to sell) to go round, writing on the paper the price they will pay for the item and their name. They will obviously need to put down a higher bid than the highest one already on the paper. Give a ten- and five-minute warning and, at the end, have your minions guard the papers jealously to prevent unscrupulous people from adding a bid after the deadline.

## Afternoon entertainment suggestions

Treat the afternoon as an opportunity to stage an activity as if it was in the 'main ring' of a county show. People can either join in with it or enjoy watching it from a safe distance. Here are some suggestions, but a lot will rely on your local talent.

- Puppets: Put on a puppet show, followed by a workshop where people can come and learn how to use a puppet and join in a song, especially if you have some indestructible sock puppets or glove puppets that you'd be happy for less careful people to use.
- Family treasure hunt: Arrange a scavenger hunt with 20 things to collect, or send people round your building to discover some of the interesting parts of it for themselves.
- Family film: *VeggieTales*, *Friends and Heroes* and *The Miracle Maker* are all gentle introductions to Bible stories, suitable for all ages.
- Sports: Organise games to enthral the livelier participants.