



Messy Church at home

Sunday 25 April 2021

Jesus is alive!

While the pandemic is ongoing, we are still unable to meet together as a Messy Church, so for the time being, how about trying Messy Church at home? Try the activities, using bits and pieces you might have at home. If you can't find the exact same items, what things could you use instead?

Read: John 20-21 and Luke 24

In John chapters 20 and 21 and Luke chapter 24 we read about what happened to the disciples after Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. Jesus showed himself to them in different ways:

- **In the garden where Jesus' tomb was** - when Mary Magdalene discovered the tomb was empty, she was terribly upset and crying. When Jesus appeared to her there, she thought he was the gardener. It wasn't until he spoke her name, she realised it was him. John 20: 16-18 says, "¹⁶Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!' (which means 'Teacher')." ¹⁷Jesus said, 'Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: 'I have seen the Lord!' And she told them that he had said these things to her."
- **In a locked room** - the disciples were all locked together in a room and Jesus suddenly appeared among them. John 20: 19 and 20 say, "Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!'" ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord." And in Luke 24: 41-43 we read that he shared a meal with them. Jesus appeared to the disciples a second time behind locked doors in the same way. We read in John 20 that Thomas was not with the disciples the first time it happened and didn't believe that Jesus had been there. Verses 26-29 say, "²⁶A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said,

“Peace be with you!” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”
²⁸Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

• **On the road to Emmaus** - Jesus walked with two of the disciples and talked with them. They didn't recognise him until they invited him to eat with them in the evening and he broke bread and they suddenly realised it was Jesus. Luke 24: 30-32 says, “³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³²They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the scriptures to us?”

• **On the shores of the Sea of Galilee** - the disciples were out fishing early one morning when Jesus appeared to them on the shore, but they did not realise it was him. John 21: 5-7 tells us, “⁵He called out to them, “Friends, haven't you any fish?” “No,” they answered. ⁶He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. ⁷Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!”

When they got back to the shore they cooked some of the fish they had caught over a fire and shared a meal together.

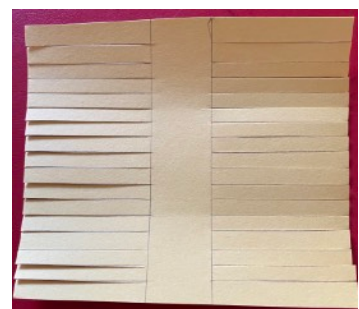
Activities

Garden flower

You will need:

- Different coloured card/paper (or you can colour it in yourself if you don't have different colours)
- Scissors and a pencil
- Wooden skewer or thin stick
- Sellotape

Take a rectangle of card and draw two lines about an inch apart down the centre. Then draw a series of lines on either side from the centre lines out to the edges of the card. Cut down these lines from the edges into the centre to make thin strips - don't cut over the centre lines.



Roll your rectangle of card up into a tube and stick with sellotape. Then peel back the strips to make thin petals for your flower. Screw up a blob of different coloured paper and stuff it into the hole in the middle to make the centre of the flower.



Now make the stem. Take your wooden skewer and cover it in green paper or card. Cut out a leaf shape and attach it to the stem with



sellotape. Now stick the stem to the flower head with sellotape.

While you make your flower, consider Mary Magdalene in the garden by Jesus' empty tomb. She was distraught, crying, she wondered where Jesus' body could have gone. She had tears in her eyes, she couldn't see properly, but she could certainly sense the garden around her, she could smell the garden flowers and hear insects and birds. It wasn't until Jesus said her name that she recognised and saw him. Next time you smell some fresh flowers or hear the bees buzzing in the garden, remember how

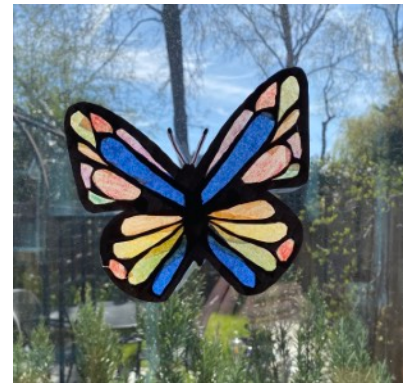
Jesus rose from the dead and calls you by name too.

Stained glass butterfly

You will need:

- Butterfly template below
- Different coloured tissue paper, or you can use greaseproof/baking paper and coloured pens
- Scissors and sellotape

Print out the butterfly template on the final page. Carefully cut it out, so that all the white areas on the wings are holes. Turn the butterfly over and stick different colours of tissue paper over the holes. (If you don't have tissue paper, you can colour in pieces of greaseproof or baking paper and it will have a similar effect.) Once you've completed your butterfly, stick it up on a window and see the light shining through the coloured wings.



As you make your butterfly, think about where a butterfly comes from. It starts life as a caterpillar and eventually transforms into a butterfly with a new life. Consider how Jesus died and rose again and is alive. Jesus gave us all new life through his death and resurrection.

What's in the bag?

You will need:

- A bag
- A selection of different items from around the house
- Someone to act as the game host

The game host should take the bag and, in secret, select a range of items that are hard, soft, smooth, rough, squidgy etc. They should put all the items together in the bag. Everyone else should then take it in turns to guess an item in the bag by touch and feeling - no peeking! If you guess an item correctly, score a point. The

game winner is the person with the most points after all the items have been guessed.

Remember in the stories we read above, how Thomas wouldn't believe Jesus was alive until he had seen him and touched him. We might not be able to touch Jesus, but we can sense him, feel him and recognise him in our lives. Some people carry a small wooden cross with them in their bag or pocket, which reminds them every time they feel it, that Jesus is close and with them all the time.

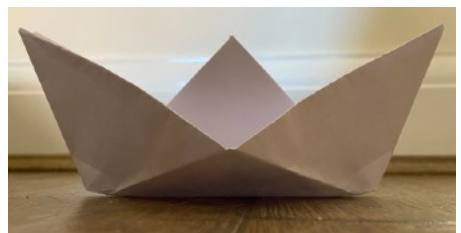
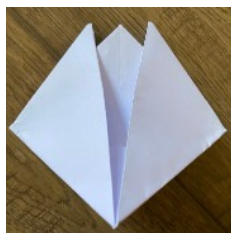
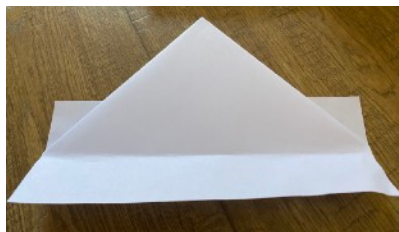
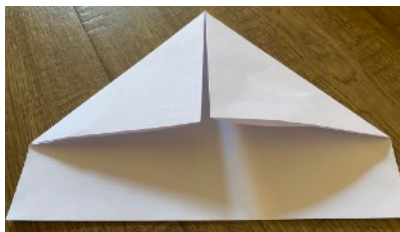
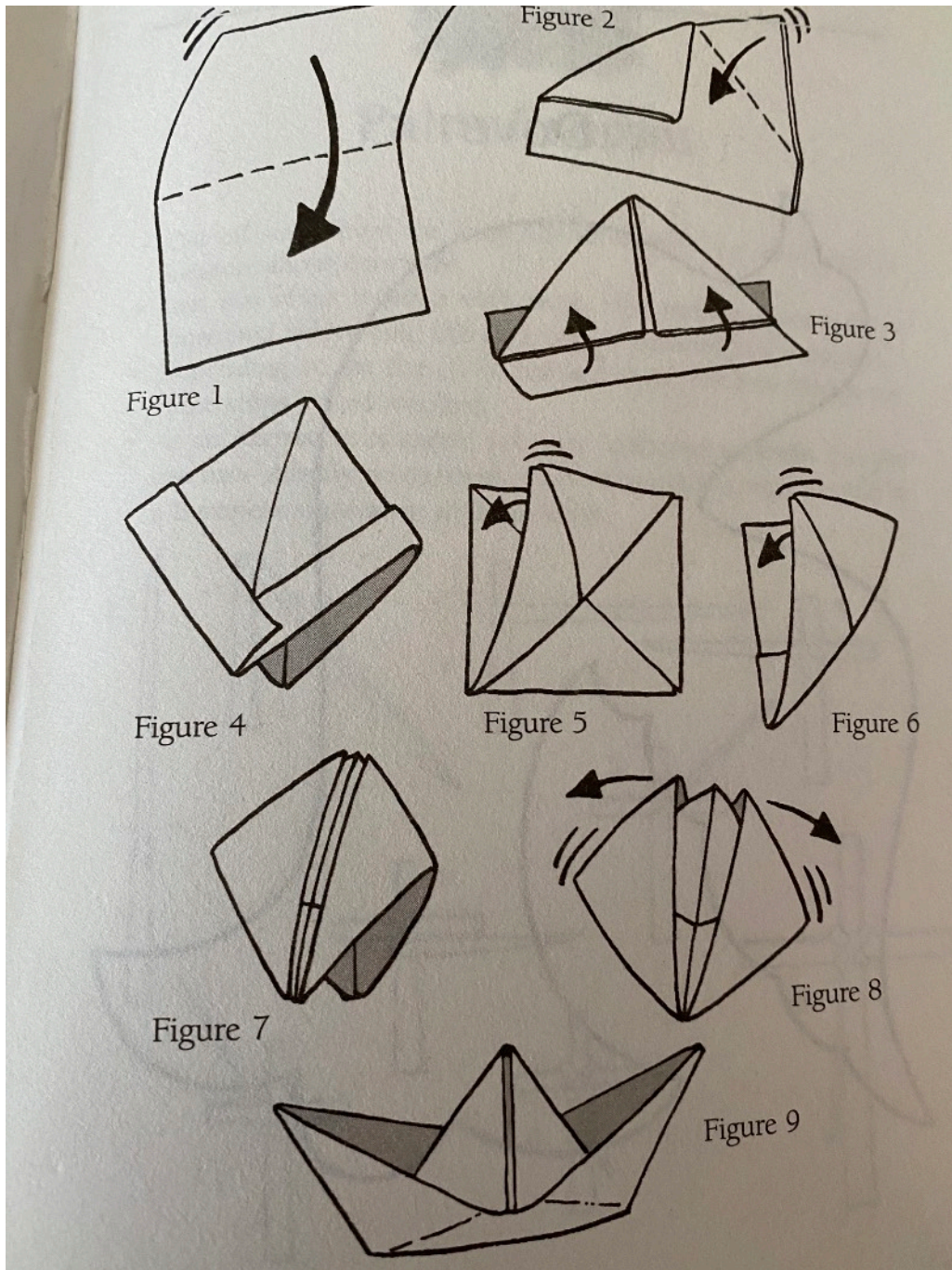
Paper fishing boat

You will need:

- A4 sheet of paper
- Instructions below (taken from Messy Church by Lucy Moore)

Instructions for making a paper boat

1. Take a sheet of A4 paper and fold it in half widthways (Figure 1).
2. Find the centre point along the folded edge of the paper and fold the corners down to meet in the middle, forming a triangle (Figure 2).
3. Open out the remaining edge of the paper and fold each side back towards the triangle, forming a hat shape (Figure 3).
4. Holding the lower edge (the 'brim' of the hat) at the centre point on both sides, open the shape out and refold it to make a diamond. Tuck the loose ends neatly under each other on both sides (Figure 4).
5. Lay the diamond shape flat and fold back the open end to match the triangle shape at the top of the diamond (Figure 5).
6. Turn the paper over and repeat with the other side (Figure 6).
7. Once again, holding the lower edge at the centre point, open the shape out and refold it to make a diamond shape (Figure 7).
8. Take hold of the outer points on both sides of the top of the diamond and gently pull them apart in an outward direction (Figure 8). This will form the boat shape, with the small centre triangle acting as a sail.
9. Gently shape the paper around the base of the sail so that the bottom of the hull is slightly flattened, allowing the boat to stand (Figure 9). The finished boat will be strong enough to float on water for a short length of time.



While you make your boat, think about the story of Jesus appearing to the disciples on the shore while they were out in the boat fishing. They didn't initially realise it was him. It was only when, on Jesus' advice, they threw their nets on the other side of the boat and hauled in a momentous catch! Suddenly their eyes were opened and they recognised Jesus. Imagine how they must have felt when they realised who it was. How glad they must have felt when they came ashore and were able to share a meal on the beach with Jesus.

Reflect

First, you might like to listen to the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus in [this short YouTube video](#).

After Jesus rose from the dead, he appeared to different people in different ways, but what do all the stories have in common?

Mary Magdalene mistook Jesus for the gardener at first. It was only when he spoke her name that she realised it was him and that he was alive.

Thomas was resolute that he didn't believe Jesus was alive. It was only when he saw Jesus with his own eyes and felt the places on his hands where the nails had been on the cross, that he really and truly believed it was Jesus and that he was alive.

The disciples on the Road to Emmaus talked with Jesus and listened to him while they walked on their journey. It wasn't until he sat down to eat with them and broke bread at the table that they suddenly saw that it was him and that he was alive.

The disciples out in the fishing boat thought Jesus was a friendly stranger on the shore trying to help them out. It wasn't until they hauled in their miracle catch that they recognised Jesus, reinforcing to them that he was alive.

Jesus wanted to show his disciples that he was alive. Jesus is alive today. He wants to show us too. We can read these bible stories and know that Jesus lives. How else can we recognise Jesus in our every day lives? Perhaps we see Jesus in other people and their actions. Or maybe we see Jesus in our wonderful, natural world around us - the caterpillar transforming to a butterfly for example. How might other people see Jesus in you?

Sing

Remember to keep singing Jesus' love is very wonderful!

You might like to learn [this new song to remind you that Jesus is alive!](#)

Pray

Use all your senses to pray:

You gave us noses to smell flowers, like Mary Magdalene in the garden. Thank you.
You gave us tongues to taste different foods, like the meals you shared with your disciples. Thank you.

You gave us skin to feel our family's hugs, like Thomas felt your hands. Thank you.
You gave us ears to hear each other and listen, like the disciples on the road listened to you. Thank you.

You gave us eyes to see each other, like the disciples saw you. Thank you.
Thank you Jesus that you are alive. Help us to feel your presence in our lives every day and hear your voice guiding us. Amen.

You might also like to say The Lord's Prayer. And perhaps you'd like to finish with Messy Grace - can you remember the actions we do when we say it? Here's a reminder...

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out your hands in front of you)

And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)

Be with us all now and for ever. Amen (Raise hands together on the word 'Amen' and shout loudly!)

Butterfly template

