We are very grateful for the funding we received in September 2022 for Messy Church. Our Messy Church meets on the third Friday of every Month at Inspire Suffolk on Lindbergh Road in Ipswich. We have met 11 times during the year and have shared the love of Jesus with many families who have no previous connection with church and for whom our Messy Church is now their church. We start with different activities that help the families explore the theme then there is a celebration service with songs, a story and prayers and at the end we eat a meal together. Below is just a small snap shot of our year with photographs of various activities.

"Yah - it’s Messy Church!" a quote from one of our children.

**Themes and Bible passages**

- September 2022 - Harvest - Feeding the 5000
- October 2022 - Jesus is the Light of the World
- November 2022 - Remembrance - Isaiah 49:15
- December 2022 - Christmas
- January 2023 - A New Start - Zacchaeus
- March 2023 - Mothers and Others
- April 2023 - Easter
- May 2023 - The Coronation and King Jesus
- June 2023 - The Lords Prayer and Fathers Day
- July 2023 - Abraham and moving on

**Families Attending**

Over the year we have seen 21 different adults and 45 different children from 18 different families. 8 of those families being new contacts during the grant period. We have had 8 Adults and 2 children helping.

**Our learning to take us forward**

We have learned over the year that small is beautiful! Many of the children and some of the adults who come to Messy Church are Autistic or have other neuro diverse conditions and can’t cope with a loud busy environment. We don’t have huge numbers coming and the room we hire is big so our families don’t feel overwhelmed and there is always a quiet space to sit if needed. We know that some of our families come to us because Messy Church isn’t too busy. We would love our Messy Church to grow in number but we don’t want it to grow to the detriment of those families we are serving so as we go forward we will always have this in mind.