



March 2020

Fellowship City

Fellowship is a word church people use. I have to admit I don't like it much. It sounds stuffy. And what is fellowship? The dictionaries define it as 'a group of people meeting to pursue a shared interest or aim', and 'friendly association, especially with people who share one's interests'. It is more than friendship although friendship can be involved. So when we meet each month as Messy Church, we have a common interest to learn more about Jesus and his Kingdom that he talks a lot about, and shows us how to be part of. We aim to do it in a fun, creative way involving food!

One version of the Bible describes it as "Living life together" and that is my favourite definition. We are Messy Church because we do messy things but also because we recognise that the majority of us do not have clearcut ordered lives with no problems and nothing ever going wrong....my life is very messy! But in fellowship with all of you, living alongside you, and the wider church, where I both give of myself and receive from you all, I carry on. I continue to learn from Jesus about following him and have the Jesus bit in you all, walking beside me in my life's messiness. And this is mutual...you are in this fellowship, this living life together too.

We talked about the Vine today at Messy Church. When Jesus taught his disciples he would use examples of things familiar to them to help them understand. Vines would have been a familiar sight. So he said, "I am the Vine and my Father is the gardener. You are the branches." The branches are growing in and out from him, and are connected to each other. So we are connected to him and connected to each other. If we remain in his vine we will grow fruit - in this case grapes! This fruit (unlike real fruit) lasts. The fruit are things like love, patience, peace and joy.

So at Fellowship City we learn that at Messy Church we are living our lives together, interdependent on Jesus and each other. Anyone is welcome and everyone belongs.