## Welcome!!

### We wish you a Messy Christmas!

- Nativity Collage
- Star mobiles
- Stained glass Christmas tree cookies
- Pipe cleaner donkeys
- Crowns
- Tree baubles
  - Nativity story challenge



**Wesley Hall** 

The Messy Message: Happy Birthday Jesus!

Accounts of Jesus' Birthday are in two books of the New Testament: Luke's Gospel and Matthew's Gospel.

Matthew establishes Jesus family tree (the prophesied Messiah is descended from King David). He then introduces Mary and Joseph. Joseph is visited by an angel in a dream not to turn Mary away for being pregnant because the child is from the Holy Spirit. He's going to be a boy and should be called Jesus. He'll save people from their sins!

Matthew then jumps to after Jesus is born and brings in Wise Men from the East: they've seen Jesus' birthday star and have followed it to Bethlehem (via King Herod's palace in Jerusalem). The King of Judea is very interested in Jesus, the future King of the Jews, and wants to know where he is so he can go and finish him off before he can try and steal Herod's throne. The Wise Men are warned about this in a dream so they don't tell Herod where Jesus is. Furious, Herod sends out a decree to kill all the little boys around Bethlehem who are under 2 years old. But God warns Joseph about this and Mary, Joseph and Jesus go to Egypt as refugees to escape from Herod. **Matt. 1:1– 2:18.** 

Luke describes the angel Gabriel visiting Mary, a teenage girl in Nazareth, to tell her she is to bear God's son. A decree for a census was sent out: everyone had to return to their home town, so Mary and Joseph had to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem (96 miles!). Jesus was born while they were away, in a manger because there was no room in the inn. An angel appeared to shepherds near Bethlehem and told them the good news of Jesus and where to find him. They "went with haste", visited him and then told everyone about it.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 1: 26-38/2:1-21

Other things that might interest you at Wesley Hall, Crookes:

Toddlers every Wednesday, 10am and 1pm

Services: Every Sunday morning at 10:30. All age worship first Sunday of every month: next one **Sunday 6th January**. TRIBE (the really interesting bible experience) runs for children alongside the normal adult services.

If you would like any other information or have any comments, please get in touch:

Liz Harding, Children and Families Worker: families@wesleyhall.org.uk

### Parents! Here's a couple more ideas:

#### Homemade crackers:

You will need: 2 toilet rolls, crepe or wrapping paper, glue, ribbon, a needle and treats for inside eg sweets, jokes and a party hat

Cover the loo rolls in glue and wrap the crepe paper around them, leaving enough paper at either end to be the sides of the cracker.

A "wonky"!

What do you call a

donkey with three

legs?

Put the treats inside.

Twist the ends and secure with elastic bands.

Parents: perforate the gap between the loo rolls with the needle, so that the cracker breaks here and you don't get tugs of war round the dinner table!

Decorate your cracker with ribbon, sequins, pens etc. You could even decorate one for a specific family member and decorate it with things that they like. :D

(You can buy cracker snaps, that bit that makes shop bought crackers go bang, from party shops or online)



## Rudolph Cupcakes

These Rudolph cupcakes are a chocolate cupcake variation with a lovely Christmas twist!

The kids will enjoy helping you to decorate them and they will certainly enjoy helping you to eat them. They look good enough to serve at a Christmas party, too.

#### Ingredients:

makes 24 (can easily be halved)

225g margarine
200g caster sugar
50g cocoa powder
200g self raising flour
4 eggs
3-4 tablespoons of milk
200g milk choc chips
200g plain choc chips
100g unsalted butter
150g icing sugar
Red glace cherries



#### Method:

Preheat the oven to 180C/gas mark 4.

Cream together the butter and sugar. Add the eggs one at a time.

Sift the flour and cocoa powder into the bowl and fold into the wet mix. Add a little milk if needed.

Line 2 bun tins with cupcake cases and fill each with a spoonful of cake mix. Bake for 10-12 minutes.

Put aside 48 plain chocolate chips for decorating the cupcakes.

Melt half of the remainder of the plain chocolate in a microwave. Drizzle onto greaseproof paper into antler shapes. Repeat with the rest of the plain chocolate.

Due to the need to work quickly it is best to make the icing in two parts. Melt 100g milk chocolate and 50g of unsalted butter in the microwave. Stir in 75g icing sugar. Cover 12 of the cakes.

Carefully peel off 24 'antlers' from the greaseproof paper and stick 2 to each cake. Add two choc chips as eyes and a cherry as a nose to each cake. Repeat to decorate the remaining dozen cakes.

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# Wesley Hall invites you to a

## Stay & Play Morning



- Free entry
- Bouncy castle
- Craft activities

10-11:30am Saturday 19nd January