

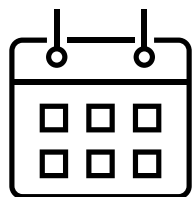
There are so many opportunities we can take to talk about the Good News of Jesus, after all, that is what Jesus asked of us, and I am always so encouraged by the stories of when we step out and are brave, how people respond with such willingness and enthusiasm, well most of the time!

Here are some ideas to help you show what Jesus looks like in your everyday life, through practical help, walking alongside people, and creating spaces for people to explore who Jesus is.

Remember to start with a first contact activity and then invite people to a follow-up event, See the Discipleship Pathway for more details on this.



- Attend and help at activity/sports days.
- Help with breakfast clubs.
- 'Sponsor a school sweater' – ask congregants to contribute towards the cost of an embroidered school jumper for families in need.
- Offer appropriate Christian books, bible storybooks, and suitable full bibles for school libraries.
- Intentionally invite children, parents, and staff to services and events
- Let school staff know about Alpha courses or any other faith-explorer courses that the parish is running.



- Host activity mornings/afternoon/days for children and families.
- Run 'Messy Church' or similar with or in school. (see the document in the folder about how to run your own Messy Church)
- Run Muddy church or other forms of worship outside and invite school families along. (see the document in the folder about how to run your own Muddy Church)
- Encouraging and supporting children and young people to attend Christian holidays or camps.
- Enable teenage Christians to serve on holidays and camps as young leaders.
- Run a Light trail or Easter story trail.

THE LIGHT TRAIL

We have created a Light trail for you to use, either during Halloween, bonfire, or Advent. It encourages the whole community to get involved, as you will need people who are happy to decorate their windows with stained glass window-type pictures or to create stops along a woodland trail, depending on where you live and run the Light Trial. Each household is given a map with the trail marked out and then moves from between 5-10 Light stops collecting stickers and pondering questions about faith and themselves.

This is a totally intergenerational activity and was such a huge success in 2020 we are creating another one. **If you want to run your own, get in touch and we can send you the resource pack. Emmas@cofebirmingham.com**

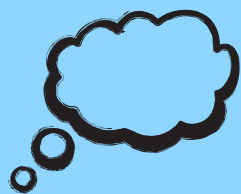
Here is what some people said about the Light trial

I just wanted to say THANK YOU!! For providing such magical resources to enable our church to reach out to the community and provide light at a time of darkness!

Our families LOVED doing the light trail. We used a local park and set up stations around with lights and treats. Not only did our families have a magical time, but we also had at least EIGHT families join in who have never been to church, to see these families read scripture and enjoy light and love was truly fantastic!!

Just wanted to pass on as well, what a great time we had with the Light Trail. We adapted it slightly and had 30 households from across the church sign up, including some of those people who had raised initial reservations which were rather lovely. We opened it up to the whole church, but we really expected mainly families to sign up, but in the end, we had all ages, singles, couples, families joining in! – St Johns Harborne

I wanted to thank you for all the amazing light trail that you made available to all parishes through Parish Mission Support. We held ours last night and it was such a fun event. The timing was just right after the announcement of a second lockdown and many families really appreciated being able to come out together and have some fun. We were so pleased too by how many families took the time to come back to the church and say thank you. So good to see the smiling faces and happy children. What a great night to remember the light of Christ at work in this world. – St Leonards Marston Green



- Run a Holiday Club. Get involved in our 'Life' Holiday club that runs once a term, Advent, Easter, and Summer. Contact the [Parish Mission Support team](#) for more details, or use the wide variety of material is available from BRF Barnabas and Scripture Union, amongst others.
- Offer after-school clubs depending on the expertise you have available. For example, gardening, Bible stories, art & craft, dance, music, drama, sport/games.

LIFE HOLIDAY CLUB

We have run four Holiday Clubs in the past year, it all started in Summer 2020, with myself and 6 members of the Bishop's Youth Synod coming together to create and deliver a Holiday club for primary-aged children and their families.

We have two characters Filler and Spiller who help us think about what it looks like to be a friend of Jesus, often concentrating on the way we can fill each other with encouraging words and actions or sometimes spill it out again when we say something hurtful and in anger. We have looked at bible stories and learned new songs together and always played a game that has made us laugh!

If you want to run your own, or be involved in the next Holiday Club then get in touch and we can send you the resource pack. Emmas@cofebirmingham.com

Here is what some people who joined us at Holiday Club had to say:

"We were part of an exciting and colourful experience. We heard a bible story, beautifully told, we played Listening Lions, we did silly things like trying to balance a spoon on our nose! And we learned to 'zoom around the room', and I still cannot get that song out of my head! It was a wonderful experience to share you." – Solihull Parish newsletter.

Just to share with you that a grandparent and her granddaughter, who are still enjoyed engaging with the Holiday Club pack, draw me a picture of the Women at the Well and gave it to me on Sunday. – Holy Cross Billesley Common

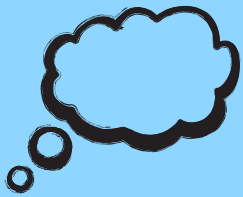
The aim of all of our Parish Mission Support resources, is for you to engage with your local community, building relationships and creating space to talk about Jesus, and invite people to become part of your community and part of God's family.

- Start a Muddy, Wild, or Forest church and invite school families along. This year there has been a huge move to start gatherings and services outside, out of necessity but also because people have so enjoyed engaging with nature through their daily walks.

These events are often a space where people who wouldn't normally want to come into the church building, feel able to join in.

There are several parishes across the diocese having a go and we have created a Google drive full of resources people have created and are willing to share. We also get together once a term to talk about what we are up to and to share ideas and resources.

If you want to create your own outside expression of church, or indeed have already started one and would be happy to share your experience then please contact me, by **emailing emmas@cofebirmingham.com**



In the meantime, here are some websites and books to start your thinking about what you might like to create to invite school families along too.

- [Muddy Church](#)
- [Wild worship](#) a book by Rachel Summers;
- [Discovering Forest Church](#)

Other missional idea that require longer term planning are:

- Offer afterschool clubs depending on the expertise you have available. For example, gardening, Bible stories, art & craft, dance, music, drama, sport/games.
- Provide holiday meals for those who normally receive free school dinners.
- Take part in or become a Kick Academy, "At KICK it is our mission to transform young people's lives with God's love through Sport and support." Kick is starting a Birmingham branch in Sept 2021 and they are looking for schools and parishes who would like to partner with them to change the lives of young people in our city through sport. If you want to get involved or find out more do to the 'Kick Academy' PDF.