

Messy Church @ Home No 7



"Take care of his animals"

Proverbs 12 verse 10 ICB

"A good man takes care of his animals.
But even the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel."

I looked at these two bible passages and thought of Saint Francis of Assisi in Italy, a good man who lived around 1200 AD - over 800 years ago. He lived in very troubled times with wars, earthquakes and destruction. He turned his back on being a soldier and the son of his billionaire (the equivalent in today's terms) silk merchant father. He turned to God and was known for talking to birds and animals! He took a vow of poverty and many people followed his way of life.

It has been recognised that he was and is the champion for environmental issues. He was our original conservationist who promoted looking after animals and God's whole creation.

The next two Messy Church at Home sessions will be about current environmental issues and how St Francis led the way hundreds of years ago.

Job 12 verses 7 – 10 NIVUK

But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you;
⁸ or speak to the earth, and it will teach you,
or let the fish in the sea inform you.
⁹ Which of all these does not know
that the hand of the LORD has done this?
¹⁰ In his hand is the life of every creature
and the breath of all mankind.

1. Sing along to this song. *The video has wonderful pictures of animals in it.*

All around the world / weird Animals VBS / Group Publishing

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ew9GjmGXD_I Lifetree Kids

2. Prayer time. *Please see the challenge at the end of the Messy Church @Home No 7*

A prayer for Animals. By Dr. Albert Schweitzer (1875 - 1965)

Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals,
especially for animals who are suffering;
for animals that are overworked, underfed and cruelly treated;
for all wistful creatures in captivity that beat their wings against bars;
for any that are hunted or lost or deserted or frightened or hungry;
for all that must be put death.

We entreat for them all Thy mercy and pity,
and for those who deal with them we ask a heart of compassion
and gentle hands and kindly words.

Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals,
and so to share the blessings of the merciful.

3. Crafts

- **Build a house out of junk cardboard**

How to. Collect some cardboard rubbish, which is all eco-friendly. Make an Italian Church.

I used PVA glue and some masking tape to hold things in place. Why not take a pencil, a ruler and some felt tip pens and draw some windows on the Church and /or a rose window above your door.



Why.

After returning to the town of Assisi, Francis had a vision when he was in a church. The church he was in was derelict and falling down. Francis was praying to God to be shown a new way in his life. God spoke to him and told him to rebuild his church. Francis immediately thought he was referring to the church he stood in and, being from a rich family, he took some of his father's silk cloth and sold it giving the money to the priest in the church. The priest would not touch this money as he had stolen it.

Later in Francis' life he started to build the church, but this time he did it by hand and built it brick by brick himself.

- **Make a beautiful bird.**

How to.



Looking at the colour photo of the Lilac-breasted Roller and the line drawing of a bird. Can you manage to draw a bird?

Or you can print off the pdf that goes with this Messy Church @ Home and colour in the sketch on the left. Make sure the bird is brightly coloured as it seems to be a songbird singing its heart out.



Why. St Francis was seen having long conversations with birds. That is why you often see him pictured with birds on his shoulders. In Job 12 verses 7-10 we are asked to listen to the birds, the animals and the earth. When we do this with empathy and put ourselves in the position of an animal or a bird we soon find out that they are in distress and that we need to help them. This could be by planting a tree or putting out bird seed in the winter or much, much more.

- **Count how many birds you can see from your window?**

How to. Below are three links to learn about our Birds in the UK and survey birds in the UK.

See below a link with the Natural History Museum urban project to identify birds this Spring and Summer.

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/british-garden-birds-spring-and-summer.html> <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/>

The next two are surveys that you can find on the RSPB website as part of their [RSPB's Wild Challenge](#)

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/kids--schools/teaching-resources/bsbw-under-5-counting-sheet>

When you have enjoyed these surveys why not see what else you can find as part of the Wild Challenge.

The two surveys have been downloaded and are attached to the pdf for this Messy Church @ Home No 7

4. Sing along and dance to your favourite dance song. Stopping the music now and then.

St Francis loved to dance, and I suggest that you stop your music and play statues. While you stand still, think of the spoilt man who gave up everything for God.

He and his followers were so poor that if you had seen them in the street they would have been very dirty and bedraggled.

5. Say this prayer together which St Francis wrote.

The Peace Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is error, the truth;

Where there is doubt, the faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

Grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled, as to console;

To be understood, as to understand;

To be loved as to love.

Please listen to this reflective song based on this prayer - one of my favourite hymns.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7itP2pVL05M>

[annealvarezful](#)

This Week's Challenge

Can you please send me or your local Messy Church Coordinator a photo of your Pet or an animal you can see from your window?

I would like to make a collage of these pictures to go with the Prayer at the beginning of this session: A prayer for Animals. By Dr. Albert Schweitzer (1875 - 1965)

I hope you will have time to have a meal together after this Messy Church at Home session.


Messy Grace May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out your hands as if expecting a present) And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart) And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands) be with us evermore. (Hands up in the air) Amen.



SA 20 20.

What did you see?

How many birds of the **same kind** do you see **at the same time**?




House sparrow

1 2 3 4 5

• •• •• •••

More than 5 _____




Blackbird

1 2 3 4 5

• •• •• •••

More than 5 _____




Blue tit

1 2 3 4 5

• •• •• •••

More than 5 _____

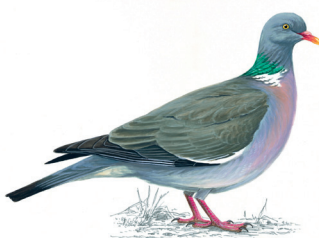


Robin

1 2 3 4 5

• •• •• •••

More than 5 _____




Woodpigeon

1 2 3 4 5

• •• •• •••

More than 5 _____




Chaffinch

1 2 3 4 5

• •• •• •••

More than 5 _____

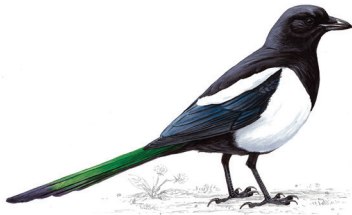


Starling

1 2 3 4 5

• •• •• •••

More than 5 _____



Magpie

1 2 3 4 5

• •• •• •••

More than 5 _____

Your
name

The RSPB is a registered charity in England & Wales 207076,
in Scotland SC037654. Drawings by Mike Langman. 382-0346-19-20



RSPB Wildlife Explorers
is the junior membership
of the RSPB.

What did you see?

Please circle the number that shows the most of each species that you **see together at the same time**.
Write the number in the space provided if you see more than 10.

Your name _____



Blackbird

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10

More than 10 _____



House sparrow

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10

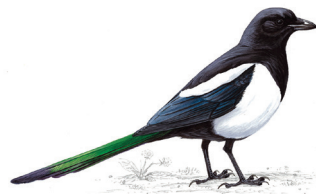
More than 10 _____



Black-headed gull

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10

More than 10 _____



Magpie

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10

More than 10 _____



Blue tit

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10

More than 10 _____



Robin

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10

More than 10 _____



Carrion crow

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10

More than 10 _____



Song thrush

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10

More than 10 _____



Chaffinch

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10

More than 10 _____



Starling

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10

More than 10 _____



Coal tit

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10

More than 10 _____




Greenfinch

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10

More than 10 _____

Turn over for more birds to spot.


Please circle the number that shows the most of each species that you **see together at the same time**.
Write the number in the space provided if you see more than 10.



Collared dove

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10


More than 10 _____



Long-tailed tit

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10


More than 10 _____



Dunnock

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10


More than 10 _____



Pied wagtail

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10


More than 10 _____



Jackdaw

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10

More than 10 _____



Woodpigeon

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10

More than 10 _____



Great tit

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10

More than 10 _____



Wren

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10

More than 10 _____

Draw any bird you have seen that isn't on this sheet.