

# The Nicodemus Project



## Messy Church Part 2

Two clerics from this diocese recently attended a day-long conference on Messy Church in Burlington, Ontario. It was led by Sue Kalbfleisch (Regional Coordinator for Eastern Canada) and the Rev. Nancy Rowe who has led a Messy Church at St. George's in Georgetown, Ontario for the past four years.

Messy Church is a Fresh Expression of church designed to reach those not connected to any church. It is for all ages and it is fun. Its aim is: "to introduce Jesus, to give an opportunity to encounter him and to grow closer to him." Many of those who attend are two or three generations away from having any experience of church apart from having attended an occasional funeral or wedding. They come because Messy Church is not churchy. It does not use a set form of liturgy. It is not a place where everyone is required to dress up, sit still or behave in a certain way. It offers a way to spend time with family when life is often too busy for families to connect in meaningful ways. People come because it is one evening a month when they don't have to cook!

Messy church offers hospitality, friendship, stories, creativity, worship and a family friendly meal.

Because having Messy Church requires a team of dedicated volunteers, a Messy Church usually meets once a month. The preferred time seems to be between 5 and 7 o'clock, on a weeknight. When they finish work, parents pick up their children and go there directly.

Watch for an article in the September *New Brunswick Anglican* and the offer of how-to workshops for those parishes interested in a different approach to reaching those presently outside the church.

***The Nicodemus Project is both urgent and necessary. Over many years we have moved away from being the church that God calls us to be, so now we are a church in decline. We need to ask God to transform us – as individuals and as his church – and help us re-learn the true meaning of being Christian and Anglican.***



**JUNE 2011**

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## FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

Archbishop Claude Miller recently resumed his full schedule following his illness this spring. He is most grateful for your many prayers and other expressions of kindness.

### Announcements

- Samuel Malcolm was born to the Reverends Terence and Jasmine Chandra on Good Friday, April 22. Jasmine is the first priest to bear a child while active in the diocese.
- The Rev. Patricia Craig resigned as chaplain of the Saint John hospitals in order to retire.
- The Rev. Marian Lucas Jefferies resigns as priest-in-charge of the Parish of Upham on August 15, 2011 in order to take up a position in the Diocese of Nova Scotia.
- The Rev. Robyn Cuming is appointed priest and rector of the Parish of Richmond effective Aug. 1. She returns to this diocese from the Parish of Clayton in the Diocese of Ottawa.
- Michael O'Hara will be ordained to the transitional diaconate at Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday, June 12 at 7 pm. Please keep Michael and his wife Sheila in your prayers.

**Synod 2011 takes place at the Fredericton Inn, Oct. 28 and 29.**



## RESOURCES

### Please pray for Clergy College

June 12 - 17

Heavenly Father, you have given us a precious fellowship in the Mystical Body of Christ your Son; Grant the grace of your Holy Spirit upon the Clergy College of this Diocese that we may all be renewed in our knowledge and love of your Son, and may enjoy ever deeper and richer fellowship with one another in Him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and unto ages of ages. Amen