

Messy Church for Burns' Night.

Monday Jan 25th is Burns' Night – here are some related craft activities if you are looking for a bit of fun! I hope that you can find what you need around the house....it won't matter if yours comes out a wee bit different. I'd love to see some pictures!

1. Bonnie Bagpipes <https://www.crayola.com/crafts/bonnie-bagpipes-craft/>

Take a musical road to Scotland! Craft your very own pretend bagpipes with a paper bag and recycled cardboard rolls. All you need now are kilts!



You need:

- Coloured paper
- Pens
- A paper bag
- Rubber bands
- PVA Glue
- Scissors
- Paper towel rolls (or similar)
- String/wool

1. Traditional Highland bagpipes include one loud, high-pitched pipe or chanter and three big, loud upright pipes or drones. All of these pipes are connected to a bag held under the arm. The bag is either covered with velvet or the clan tartan plaid. Bagpipe players fill the bag with air by blowing through a blowpipe. To make your own set of pretend bagpipes, use your imagination and adapt these directions.
2. Use pens, pencils or even paints to decorate a small brown (or white!) paper bag with a tartan pattern. If you have a family tartan, you could try to duplicate it. Stuff your bag with crumpled newspaper so it looks like it is full of air.
3. Use your scissors to cut one short piece of cardboard roll for the blow pipe (*red* in the picture). Cut a piece that is a bit longer for the chanter. Cut three even longer sections for the drones.
4. Cover all five cardboard rolls with coloured paper: if you like you can decorate them with Celtic designs. Let them dry.
5. Insert the blowpipe into the open end of the paper bag. Glue the bag's mouth around the end of the blow pipe. Hold in place with a rubber band. Let it dry, then remove the rubber band.
6. Poke a hole in your bag near the blow pipe for the chanter (see picture: green tube), which hangs below the blow pipe when played. Glue it in place. Make slits in the bag for the three drones. Glue them in place. Lay the bagpipe flat to dry.
7. Drape colourful yarn/string around the drones. Glue it in place. Let it all dry before humming along on your bagpipes.

Think about: Psalm 150 is easy to find: it's the last Psalm in the book of psalms in the Bible. It tells us to praise God using all sorts of instruments: have a look and see how many you recognize. You don't find the bagpipes there (can you think why not?) but think of some songs that help you praise God, and hum the tunes, pretending to play them on your bagpipes. Do you have a favourite "praise God" song?

2. To a Haggis

Robert Burns wrote a famous poem to a haggis – it's usually read out loud at a Burns' Supper before the haggis is eaten. You can listen to it here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bL-6BAOPs1Y>. Nobody has ever seen a real live haggis: but here's your chance to make your own hairy haggis.



You need:

- Card or stiff paper
- A pen or pencil
- PVA Glue
- Scissors
- Coloured string/wool
- A googly eye if you have one
- A piece of tartan paper if you have any

1. Have a good look at the picture above, then try to copy the shape of the haggis onto your card or stiff paper. When you're happy with it, cut it out. Depending on the colour of your card/paper, you might want to colour it in with pens or paint.
2. Give your haggis an eye: either draw an eye or stick one on if you have one.
3. This haggis has a hat: cut one out from fancy paper, or colour one made from plain paper.
4. Cut lots of bits of coloured wool or string. Put plenty of glue on the body of the haggis then stick on lots of "hair" (your pieces of wool)
5. Leave it to dry then hang it somewhere to cheer up your house!

Think about: did you have haggis to eat on Burns' night? Do you even like haggis? What is your favourite food? And who is the person in your house who usually cooks your food for you? Do you ever think of saying "thank you" to them? Try to remember to do this – and to try to help sometimes. Even if you can't help with the cooking, you could set the table, or wash the dishes. And maybe you could even learn to cook something for the family. Hopefully it won't look as peculiar as the hairy haggis!

3. Make your own kilt

If you go to a Burns' Supper, you'd normally wear a kilt. Today, you can make your own!



You need:

- Coloured card or stiff paper
- PVA Glue
- Scissors
- Coloured ribbon/paper strips
- Tissue paper

1. Cut a piece of card or stiff paper into roughly the shape of a kilt
2. Glue on strips of paper or pieces of ribbon to make a tartan pattern – leave this to dry.
3. Cut or tear a piece of paper into the shape of a sporran. Glue it to the front of the kilt, and decorate it with little balls of crumpled tissue paper – or use wool to make tassels.

If you want to make one which looks more like a real kilt (but is much more complicated) have a look here

<https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/make-a-scottish-kilt-card>

Think about: do you have a kilt, or would you like to have one?

What are the things about you that show you are Scottish?

(Do you have a Scottish accent, or like particular foods, or play any games which are Scottish?)

Do you know any people from other countries? What do they do that's different? (different foods/clothing/ language/religion). You could try to get to know someone from another country if you get the chance – or find out about life in another country.



Remember to say thank you to God for the wonderful world he has made for us: it's full of interesting creatures, different countries and even in these peculiar times, there is so much for us to enjoy. And hopefully it won't be too long before we can get back to doing some of the things we've all been really missing: remember, you can always tell God how you're feeling about all that!

You could even write some of your thoughts down in a modern psalm (it's just like a poem or song): have a look again at Psalm 150 if you need some ideas! You could even get the rest of the folks at home involved. If enough of you write something, maybe we could put them together in our own Messy Church book of Psalms.