

## Xpressions café – Epiphany

### Reflection on last time:

1. It was good to have so many people there, particularly some who we hadn't seen at Xpressions pm or the breakfast services earlier in the year. There seemed to be a real buzz to the atmosphere
2. The enjoyment of some children is dependent in part on who else is there. Encourage them to bring their friends?
3. Those helpers with Xpressions age children should/could be freed up to work with one of their children for some of the time if there are sufficient helpers to help their other children. Otherwise their children miss out on working with a parent individually. Working as families is something we want to encourage in Xpressions.
4. We should all perhaps make a conscious effort of chatting to the people around the tables we are helping at to give the reason behind the craft that has been chosen.
5. Structure last time was OK but could be improved. As helpers we felt we needed a longer break. The 10 minutes clear-up time was not long enough for people to go down to the café and back up again for the story so we had to urge them upstairs again.

### Proposal for this time: Gifts and Journeys

10.00 -10.40am	Gift boxes
10.40 -11.00am	Story, songs, prayers
11.00 -11.20am	Break
11.20 – 12.00 noon	'Journeys' craft activity

There will also be an on-going craft activity of making Epiphany cards and a small table for the little ones who only wanted to cut things up (the newspaper on the tables) and colour (the newspaper on the tables) with wallpaper as a table covering to draw on, paper, scissors, crayons and some Epiphany outlines.  
And there will be an on-going game – Christmas card game.

Catering for around 20 children as we know a good number are away.

### Gift boxes:

Pre-formed card boxes or self-assembly 'king carrying a box' to decorate  
**Penny** to source boxes and find sticky jewels ... shred tissue paper for inside  
**Rowena** to photocopy box outlines and cut a few out ready for assembly  
**Everyone** to keep wrapping paper with suitable motifs or shiny/metallic paper  
**Alison** to source more 'boy-friendly' motifs on paper  
**Pat** to provide heart-shaped biscuits for the boxes

Talk about: the best gift they have ever received/they had for Christmas; Jesus being the best gift that God could have given us; what gift we would give to God ... ?

### Story, song, prayer:

Over to you Nigel!

We proposed giving the children heart-shaped biscuits for their boxes sometime during the storytime, which could be used as a symbolic offering of our hearts (ourselves) to God during this time.

### Possible songs

To tune of 3 blind mice:  
Three wise men x2

See where they go x2  
They journey after a star one night  
Led on the way by its shining light.  
When the star stops they see such a sight,  
Those three wise men.

We need some more. Does anyone know the one of which the chorus starts:  
The best gift of all is love \* \* , The best gift of all is love \* \* ?

**Richard/Nigel** can either of you recommend anything?

**Journeys craft:**

**Older children:** Using tracing paper/acetate to create a layered journey, in collage or drawn, which could include: the stable, Mary and Joseph arriving after their journey with the donkey, the star and shepherds, the kings arriving after their long journey. 4 layers would probably be enough.

**Rowena** to source the tracing paper (or acetate sheets)

**Penny** to knock up a prototype

We have enough stuff for collage (sticky paper, wool, lolly sticks, Pritt sticks ...) already and felt pens in abundance if we are using tracing paper.

**Younger children:** a journey TV. Using boxes with the front mostly removed and 2 slits in the adjacent 2 sides create a frieze that can be moved through the television to show the journeys of Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the kings to Bethlehem. Use cut out images from Christmas cards and drawing materials for the frieze.

**Penny** to provide the boxes ready cut (she already has a quantity of these)

**Alison** to source bamboo canes for each end of the frieze and paper cut to appropriate width for the slits

**Everyone** to collect Christmas cards with images of the above

Talk about: going on journeys; how they travelled; why they were going there; did they know the way; were they following a map (sat-nav ... ); our lives as faith journeys ... ?

**Ongoing activities**

**Penny** to find pictures to photocopy for colouring in

**Penny** to fiddle with Epiphany card outlines and provide ~7 of each type

**Alison** to provide the Christmas card jigsaws

**!Xpresso and Xplore leaders!**

Do you mind cutting out pieces of Christmas card being stuck up in your zones for children to come and find during the morning?! If you do, then we will have to think again as the upstairs room is not a very exciting venue (too small) to play the game for older children. The younger ones pieces will all be confined up there, I think.