

MESSY CHURCH TAKE HOME SHEET FOR GROWN UPS! MARCH 2017

We have been thinking about Jesus calling himself the vine, of which we are the branches. You will find this in John's Gospel chapter 15, from verses 1-11.



We don't grow grapes hereabouts – although there were some grapes from the isle of Mull at the last Laggan sale! Jesus talked about grapevines, because that was a common plant, grown in all the fields around him.

The idea would work just as well if we were to take one of our own fruit plants and think of Jesus as, say, an apple tree. So then he would be saying "I am the trunk and you are the branches." His point is the same. Just as branches, of vine or tree, don't bear fruit unless they remain connected to the living vine or trunk, so if we want to have Jesus' life running through us, we need to remain connected to him.



If we were to change the metaphor again, we might say that an electric light bulb is no use unless it is switched on!

Staying connected, means turning to Jesus, not just in the odd moments and the hard days, but every day, as a habit of life. It means praying, it means that as we make choices in our lives we think to ourselves "What might Jesus do here?" Remember that his responses to life were sometimes surprising, but always loving.

And what is the fruit our lives can grow? Elsewhere the Bible tells us that it is "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Galatians 5:22) That is fruit which is a gift to us and to others as well.

