

Message from A Strathclyde Minister

Greetings,

In January I attended the Deep Impact conference at Aviemore. On the Saturday I had the opportunity to listen to, Lucy Moore, the founder of Messy Church.

Messy Church engages with people of all generations, including churchgoers and non-churchgoers. For many people this has become their church. Yet Messy Church is often criticised about its ability to help people grow in faith.

In response Lucy Moore explored how Messy Church can help people grow in faith. She explained that discipleship is not about participation on a course. Instead, discipleship is about relationships, getting alongside and sharing in people's lives. It happens organically when people meet up for a chat, listening to one another's stories and exploring questions that arise from Messy Church and life.

So discipleship happens when we choose to build friendships. It is not simply about gathering together for a couple of hours.

This has led me to reflect on our churches. Do we believe that people will grow in faith if we only gather at our services? Do we believe that people will grow in faith if they gather at our outreach activities?

I believe that people, including myself, will grow in faith if we choose to build friendships that support each other in our journey of faith. This requires time, honesty and trust.

So, are we prepared to build new friendships with acquaintances and strangers for them and us to grow in faith?

Peace

Gordon