



What is Godly Play?

Godly Play is a creative and imaginative approach to the nurture of the Christian faith of children. It can be used in a variety of settings - churches, schools, hospitals, care homes for the elderly, so it can be used for all ages. Godly Play is based on long established, tried and tested approaches and uses symbols and objects as well as words in a sacred way which values openness and discovery. It fosters a sense of wonder, encourages questioning, and acknowledges the Spirit of God to be working in the participants, however young they are. It is Biblical, liturgical and beautiful.



family as they develop an understanding of stories, symbols and rites. The pattern of an entire Godly Play session therefore resembles a liturgical eucharistic service with the gathering, the liturgy of the Word, the feast and the dismissal. Godly Play is one of several variations of the Montessori tradition of religious education and has been developed by the Revd Dr Jerome Berryman.

Godly Play invites listeners into stories within the Judaeo-Christian tradition. It encourages children to develop a deep and mature faith, through wondering questions and open-ended responses. It is a way of preparing children to join in the worship and life of the wider church



Why a Godly Play Room?

The environment which the children use for Children's Church says much about their nurture and spiritual development. A Godly Play room should not only be a special space, it should be a sacred space. It holds a specific purpose in which they learn a religious language through storytelling. A Godly Play room therefore speaks about God to a child. All the objects are at a child's height and reach. Everything in the room is valued.

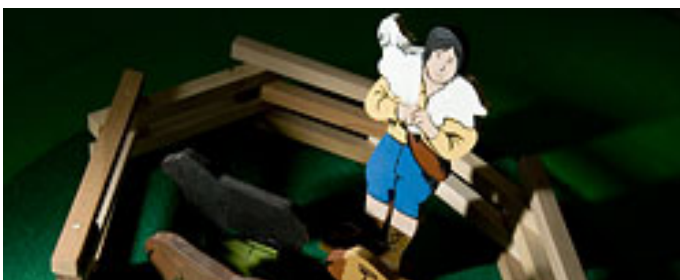
The Godly Play room should do everything that a church is intended to do for Christians of all ages, it should be a contained space which promotes a sense of curiosity and wonder.

After the story, the children are invited to continue to question and wonder. They can respond by continuing to play with the sacred objects in the story and introduce other objects from other stories to make sense of it all. Others may interpret the story through working in art and craft. The choir vestry is perfect for these activities, keeping the Godly Play room still and ordered.

What does it look like?

Godly Play uses Montessori principles in that objects used in the Godly Play room are made from natural materials. The objects are not just visual aids for a story but are there to be played with and explored. They are sacred objects, treated with care and respect.

Sacred Stories often use plain wooden figures with little detail to help the identification of the story of the People of God with our story.



Parables are kept in gold boxes because they are valuable, they are a gift and sometimes difficult to get into.

Liturgical lessons often have small replicas of what might be seen in places of worship or part of the faith tradition.



Godly Play at St. Michael & All Angels, Summertown

The Godly Play room at St. Michael's is a commitment to the ministry of children and their families. We will be able to offer training for the wider church and be able to offer a welcome to children from local schools and churches. The children who use our Godly Play room will develop a deep understanding of the Christian story and the language of the Christian people. What a wonderful gift to give them!