

# The Wesley Playhouse



From 0 to Age 11 yrs

**CAFÉ**

**PARTY  
BOOKINGS**

**TODDLER  
AND BABY  
SOFT PLAY  
AREA**

T. 07511 866836

**fresh  
expressions**

Supported by

**Biffaward**



# fresh expressions

**Fresh expressions is a phrase that is being widely used in Methodist circles at the moment, but what exactly does it mean?**

**A recent definition stated:**

“A fresh expression is a form of church for our changing culture, established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church.

It will come into being through principles of listening, service, incarnational mission and making disciples.

It will have the potential to become a mature expression of church shaped by the gospel and the enduring marks of the church for its cultural context.”

It is encouraging to see so many churches looking at initiatives like Messy Church and Café Church; however we do need to remind you that if you are involved in a fresh expression project or you are considering starting one that you do let us know. It is very important to make sure that your existing insurance arrangements are adequate to cover any new initiative.





**To enable us to make sure that you have adequate insurance in place for the initiative we will need to know the following information:**

- What will be the nature of the initiative?  
e.g. luncheon club, youth club, after school club, café church, street mission.
- How often will you meet?  
e.g. Daily, weekly, monthly.
- Will sporting activities be involved?  
e.g. Skateboarding, surfing, rollerblading, cycling or football.
- Will the project be based in your church or elsewhere?  
e.g. In the community, in someone's home, in rented accommodation.
- Will this be a joint venture with another church?
- Will it have a separate management structure?
- Will the project have its own employees?
- Has a risk assessment been carried out?

We hope that all initiatives are successful and as they thrive and grow it is important to constantly review your insurance requirements. If you have any queries or concerns then please do not hesitate to contact us on 0845 60 61 331.

**One success story:**

The Wesley Playhouse Project is the first Christian “Wacky Warehouse” type playhouse and café in the country. It is a new way of being church, part of the fresh expressions movement and a project of Howden Clough Methodist Church, in Birstall.

Starting from a small congregation of just 14 people, they had a vision to create a community outreach project costing over £100,000 and to most people, an impossible dream. Thanks to £51,020 of funding from Biffaward and support from other Methodist funds, this vision has become a reality.

Project co-ordinator Caroline Holt says, “Without this support we would not be able to say to everyone ‘come and see for yourselves how the vision has become a reality’.”

The Wesley Playhouse is now open to the public from 10am until 6pm Monday to Saturday and provides a safe place for children from 0 to 11 to play in a themed soft play area, with a café for adults and children to enjoy healthy, fair trade food and drinks.

Chair of the management group, Rev Anthony Hick said, "We will also be offering children's parties at competitive rates. We'd love lots of people to come, enjoy the company and the new look, and see what we're about."

For further details on The Wesley Playhouse visit [www.thisisit.me.uk](http://www.thisisit.me.uk)

### **Useful sources of information:**

[www.methodistinsurance.co.uk](http://www.methodistinsurance.co.uk)

[www.freshexpressions.org.uk](http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk)

[www.sharetheguide.co.uk](http://www.sharetheguide.co.uk)



## **METHODIST INSURANCE**

Methodist Insurance PLC

PO Box 4319,

Manchester, M61 0AY

Tel: 0161 833 9696 Fax: 0161 833 1287

[www.methodistinsurance.co.uk](http://www.methodistinsurance.co.uk)

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SOV71205