**Messy Church – January 2022**

**Jesus in the Temple**

The activities are:

1. General Temple activities
   1. Card and tube portico (colonnade)
   2. Icing and wafer portico
   3. Playdoh model portico
   4. Peppermint cream bricks
   5. Scrolls (in the celebration)
   6. Playdoh people
2. Cleansing the Temple – John 2, 13 – 17
   1. Friendship bracelets (plaits with or without beads), bead bracelets
   2. Birdcages
3. The widow’s mite – Mark 12, 41 – 44
   1. Collecting box (in the celebration)
   2. Coin rubbing
4. Big picture – portico (colonnade) with people

**Stories and Activities**

**1 General temple activities**

There are several activities in this section, the first of which are making a basic part of the temple in different ways. There are some pictures of a model of the temple on the website or sent out with this booklet, so you can see which part of the temple we are looking at.

1. **Card and tube portico**

**You will need:** thin card for the floor, the back wall and the roof, card tubes, the picture of the final product, felt tip pens or paint to colour the scene.

Glue the tubes to the card so that the card forms the floor, the back wall and the roof of the portico or colonnade. Make sure you have space between the pillars.

1. **Icing and wafer portico**

**You will need:** at least three ice cream wafers, marzipan or ready to roll icing, icing tubes to stick the wafers together, icing sugar to stop your hands getting sticky.

Roll at least three pillars from the marzipan or ready to roll icing. The pillars should be as tall as the wafers (make sure you measure the wafers the right way up!) Stand them on at least one of the ice cream wafers, spaced so that you have gaps between the pillars. Use the icing in the icing tube to stick the same number of wafers as you have used on the floor to make the back wall, and then stick another set to make the roof, so that the roof sticks out over the pillars at the top.

1. **Playdoh portico**

**You will need:** playdoh to make the floor, pillars, back wall, and roof of the portico. A piece of paper to make your portico on.

Use the picture and the descriptions above to make a portico on the paper.

1. **Peppermint cream bricks**

**You will need:** peppermint cream (see the recipe), icing sugar for your hands, paper plate.

Shape the peppermint cream into bricks. Make enough bricks to build two walls (with a corner) of the Temple, on the paper plate. If you can, make a gateway in one of the walls. When you have made enough bricks, leave them on the plate to dry for 24 hours, then build your temple walls.

1. **Scrolls** (in the celebration)

**You will need:** a piece of paper, two garden canes as long as the paper is wide (or a longer one cut in half), something to write with, a length of yarn or ribbon or string

Glue the canes to the top and bottom of the paper, on the right side of the paper. Write part of one of the stories of Jesus going to the Temple on the piece of paper. Roll the paper up from both ends, so that the rolls meet in the middle. Tie the scroll up, without scrunching the paper.

The books of the bible were written on scrolls, and copies were kept in religious buildings all over the land where the Jews – and Jesus – lived. Teachers used them to teach children to read Hebrew and to understand their law. There would have been a full set kept in the Temple.

1. **Playdoh people**

**You will need:** play doh, any colours

Make people – men, women, children.

Any Jewish person could go to the Temple, no matter their age. Only boys were expected to have lessons, but girls were not excluded from the Temple. Jesus had female followers as well as male followers.

Jesus went to the Temple many times during his lifetime, from when he was a baby, 6 weeks old, to just before he died at 33. The Temple was the most important religious building ever to the Jews, and it was built – and rebuilt – in Jerusalem, the capital city of the Jewish nation.

The first time Jesus went to the Temple he was a baby. You can read the story in Luke chapter 2, verses 22 – 38. His parents went to make the standard offering for the birth of a son, and met two old people, an old man called Simeon and an old lady called Anna, who told them things about who Jesus would be in the future.

The second time, Jesus was 12, not quite an adult in Jewish law. This story is in Luke 2, 41 – 50. When Joseph and Mary, Jesus’ parents, found him, he was in the Temple, talking with the teachers of the law, and listening to their lessons. The lessons would have been held in the porticos or colonnades around the Temple courtyards, so that the teacher and the students could sit in the shade, and other people could listen and join in.

**Talk about:** growing up: the places we are familiar with, the places we feel at home, even if they aren’t home. Think about the people who might know us well, even if they aren’t members of the family

**2 Cleansing the Temple –** John 2, 13 – 17

**a. friendship bracelets**

**(i) plaited bracelet**

**You will need:** lengths of ribbon or heavy embroidery thread, long enough to go round your wrist twice, optionally, 6 or 8 beads

Tie three lengths of ribbon together at one end. Ask someone to hold the knot firmly, or stick it to something firm – but not a surface that will damage! Plait the three lengths together. If you want, and if you have beads, you can thread beads onto the ribbons. When the plait is long enough to go round your wrist, plus another half inch, tie another knot, close to the plait. Use the remaining lengths of ribbon to tie the bracelet round your wrist. (Ask an adult if you can’t do it yourself.)

**(ii) threaded bracelet**

**You will need:** a length of ribbon or heavy embroidery thread, long enough to go round your wrist twice, and beads to thread on it to go round your wrist once.

Tie the first bead onto one end of the thread or ribbon, to anchor the end. Thread the rest of the beads onto the thread until the bracelet is long enough to go round your wrist plus another half inch, tie the long end through the last bead. Use the remaining thread to tie the bracelet round your wrist – ask an adult if you cannot do it yourself.

**b. birdcage (for older children)**

**You will need:** wooden base with holes in, cane, cane snips, bird, bowl of water

A picture containing indoor, window

Description automatically generatedSee the separate sheet for details of how to make this. Tina can help, but it might be the only item you make. If you want to make it at home, ask Tina for the materials to do it.

John 2, 13 – 17 tells the story of one of Jesus’ visits to the Temple as an adult. Instead of space where people could have lessons, or pray, he found that there were people selling sacrificial animals for rituals (like the pigeons Mary and Joseph would have used when he was a baby, or the sheep or calves for richer people), and other people changing money from Roman currency to Temple shekels, to buy their sacrificial animals. Instead of the space being quiet, so children or adults could hear lessons, it was noisy with the sounds of animals and people shouting their prices.

Jesus was angry about the misuse of the Temple space, and he snatched some cords and used them like a whip, to chase all the traders out of the Temple courtyard, setting the animals free, and turning over the tables of the people changing money.

The loose ends of your bracelet represent the cords of Jesus’ whip, but the bracelet is a reminder that Jesus loves everyone.

**Talk about:** spaces that are used for activities they were not originally intended for.

**3 The widow’s mite** – Mark 12, 41 – 44

**a. Collecting box** (in the celebration)

**You will need:** a print out of the net (shape with tabs) of the box, sent with this booklet, a pair of scissors, pencils, felt tips or crayons if you want to colour in the box, glue

Cut out the shape, including the tabs. Cut out the slot in the top. Fold the box inwards on all the lines, including the tabs. Make sure the tabs fold to the inside of the box – make the box without any glue to start with, so you can see where the glue needs to go. Spread glue on the tabs one at a time and stick each one before you glue the next one. The last one will be very difficult to do! This type of box does not actually open – you have to tear it to get the money out.

**b. Coin rubbing**

**You will need:** a selection of coins, greaseproof, tracing or flimsy printer paper, 2b or other soft pencils or wax crayons.

Put a coin on a small piece of blue-tak, to hold it firmly, and put a piece of paper over it. Rub over the coin lightly with a soft pencil or wax crayon, so you can see the face of the coin on the paper. You can repeat the process with the reverse of the coin. Can you make a picture with coin rubbings?

On one occasion when Jesus was in the Temple with his friends, they were watching people putting money in the collecting box. Lots of people with lots of money were putting some in, and then a lady who was obviously a widow (whose husband had died) with not a lot of money came in. She just put in two coins and went away again.

Jesus told his friends that she had put in more money than anyone else. His friends were surprised – they thought that many other people had put in more than her. Jesus said that they had given some of what they had – when they had paid all the other bills they needed to pay, they had given some or even all the leftovers – but the widow had put in all the money she had, without waiting to pay the bills first, and therefore it was more than any others had put in.

**Talk about:** giving money to charity, how you decide what to give, who to give it to.

**4 The Temple portico, with people**

**You will need:** a large sheet of lining paper (or, at home, a large piece of whatever paper you have), images of people – these can be modern or dressed in bible type clothing, kitchen roll tubes if you want to do it three dimensionally, scissors, paint or felt tip pens, glue

If you are making a three-dimensional picture, flatten the kitchen roll tubes on one side, and glue the flat side to the paper, to make columns. Leave gaps between the tubes so that you have spaces to put people in. if you are making a flat picture, paint the columns on the paper, again with spaces in between. Cut out the people, colour them in and stick them on to the picture. If you want to try and make three-dimensional people with pipe-cleaners and fabric, these could be stuck on as well.

**Talk about:** how the Temple was used for private prayer, for religious services, for teaching the Jewish law to children and adults. Talk about the problems that the people selling animals would have caused.

**Celebration**

Song Praise him on the trumpet <https://youtu.be/d8yxHMmA65g>

Jesus visited the Temple on many occasions. When he was a baby, his parents took him there to be dedicated. When he was nearly a teenager he went with his parents, and they lost him, because he stayed in the Temple when they were going home. They had already been going for a day when they discovered he wasn’t with them. When they went back to Jerusalem they found him in the Temple talking with the teachers in the Portico. The teachers were impressed by him, but his parents weren’t happy because of the worry he’d caused them. Jesus said they should have known he would be in his father’s house.

We can make a scroll, to stand for the scrolls the teachers would have had.

Sing Jesus love is very wonderful <https://youtu.be/WcgplHIntJc>

The Temple had strict rules for who could go into which bits. To go into most of the areas you had to be a Jew, but anyone could go into the outermost area, which was known as the Court of the Gentiles (that means people who aren’t Jews). However, at the time Jesus was living with his disciples, this area had been turned into a big market. This made Jesus angry, because it stopped non-Jews from coming in to pray. He turned over the tables of people who were selling sacrifices and changing money and made them leave. This annoyed the Temple authorities as they made a lot of money from this.

A little while later Jesus was sitting in the Temple grounds where there were collecting boxes for money for the Temple. He saw a poor widow put in her last two small coins. He told the disciples that she had put in more than the others because she had given all she had, while the rich people had only given a small amount of their money.

Let’s make the money boxes.

Prayer

Dear God, you give us lots of good things and we often just try to hold on to them and don’t share them or give them back to you. Help us to be generous so that others may have good things as well

Amen

Song Our God is a great big God <https://youtu.be/8Hi8jW1qYsw>

Enjoy our celebration.

Then have tea or a treat if it isn’t tea time!

If you send me pictures of anything you do, I will share them on the Church Facebook page (if you want to send pictures that you don’t want shared, just tell me. I’ll only share the one’s you’re happy to share.)

Harlington Messy Church Team

We’ll have a Zoom meeting open for those who can’t come to the church. Our end of Zoom will go on YouTube during the celebration, but we won’t put pictures from your end on. Contact me if you want the link for Zoom. Look out for the broadcast on the Harlington Methodist Church YouTube Channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTMWR_QCxujkh1zHjTFcoJw/videos>