**Messy Church – February 2022**

**David the Outlaw**

The activities are:

1. David the friend of Jonathan – 1 Samuel chapter 18, verses 1 to 4, chapters 19, verses 1 to 8, and chapter 20
   1. Friendship bracelet
   2. Jewelled goblet
   3. Food
      1. Decorating pizza
      2. Rock cakes
2. David the musician – 1 Samuel, chapter 16, verses 14 to 23, chapter 19, verses 9 to 18
   1. Disposable cup shakers (in the celebration)
   2. Picture of David playing a harp
3. David the hero – 1 Samuel, chapter 18, verses 5 to 16, 28 to 30
   1. Card and tin foil shield
   2. Helmet
4. David the Outlaw – 1 Samuel, chapters 21 to 30 – we are focussing on chapter 24
   1. Picture to colour or draw (in the celebration)
   2. Wax and black paint picture

**Stories and Activities**

**1 David the friend of Jonathan – 1 Samuel chapter 18, verses 1 to 4, chapters 19, verses 1 to 8, and chapter 20**

1. **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.

1. **Jewelled goblet**

**You will need:** a large yogurt or cream pot, or a large plastic or paper drinking cup, tin foil, stick on jewels (or non-stick jewels and glue)

Cover the pot with tin foil and stick your jewels on to decorate.

1. **Food**

**(i) decorated pizza**

**You will need:** either a bought pizza base (supermarkets do sell these) or a pizza base mix, and toppings you like! Tools - mixing bowl, jug of warm water, fork for blending, extra flour for worktop, rolling pin, baking sheets

If you are making the base from a mix, follow the instructions on the packet. If you are using a bought base, add your toppings and follow the cooking instructions that come with the base.

**(i) rock cakes**

**You will need:** the recipe, including ingredients and tools required, on the separate document

After David killed Goliath, he met King Saul’s son, Jonathan and became friends with him. They fought in the army together, and David spent time where Saul lived. In the next section, we will have a look at what David did there.

When David became afraid of Saul, that did not stop him being friends with Jonathan. When Saul told Jonathan that he wanted to kill David, the first time, Jonathan persuaded his father that it would be wrong, because David had done nothing wrong. Saul got more and more jealous of David, he threw a spear at David when he was playing his harp, and then sent men to kill him when David was at home in his bed, and David ran away. Eventually he went to Jonathan and told him that he was afraid, and he and Jonathan worked out a plan.

David was due to come to a feast at court. Jonathan suggested that David should not turn up, and he would explain to his father that David had gone to Bethlehem to celebrate with his family. What happened next would depend on how Saul reacted to what Jonathan said. The next morning, Jonathan would take his bow and arrows, and a servant boy out to practice his shooting. David would be hiding in the field. If Saul had been happy with the explanation of why David was not at the feast, Jonathan would shoot at the rocks which David was hiding behind, and tell the boy that the arrows were in front of the rocks, and if Saul had been angry, he would tell the boy that the arrows were the other side of the rocks from him. David would then know he had to run away to be safe. Saul was very angry when Jonathan said why David was not at the feast, so when their plan worked, and Jonathan had sent his servant with the bow and arrows back home, Jonathan and David said goodbye to each other, and promised that they would always look out for each other, and their families.

**Talk about:** growing up, learning to deal with people who don’t like us, or who we don’t like.

**2 David the musician – 1 Samuel, chapter 16, verses 14 to 23, chapter 19, verses 9 to 18**

**a. plastic cup shakers (in the celebration)**

**You will need:** two disposable cups or yogurt pots, dried peas or beans (not red kidney beans!), sticky tape to fasten the two pots together

Put a few peas or beans into one of the cups, and stick the two together by their top rims. Shake the resulting container to the rhythm of music.

**b. picture of David playing a harp – colouring**

**You will need:** a picture of David playing the harp (supplied separately) and colouring pencils or pens.

Draw your own version, and colour in your picture.

(for small children, there is a line drawing of David – not with harp, among the files)

Saul was not a very even-tempered person. When he was angry, he was very angry, and violent. He threw things at people he was angry with. Before David ever met Goliath, Saul’s servants had found that David playing his harp calmed Saul down so he became reasonable again. But David didn’t live with Saul all the time. When Saul was with the army, David would go back to his family in Bethlehem, to look after his father’s sheep. That was why he was visiting the army and his brothers, when Goliath made his challenge. After Goliath’s death, David spent more time where Saul lived, and was available to play his harp whenever Saul was angry.

For quite a long time, this worked, but as David grew up, and started fighting with the army, and became popular with the soldiers and the people, because he was a good soldier himself, Saul became jealous of David’s popularity. He was friends with Saul’s son, Jonathan, as well, which didn’t help. So if Saul was angry with David, David playing his harp didn’t help at all. Soon, it became very difficult for David to even be in the same room as Saul. Once, Saul threw a spear at David when he was playing, and sent men to kill him one night, so that David ran away.

**Talk about:** making music, the effect music can have on people – it can make them happy or sad, it can calm people down or make them excited. What effect does it have on you?

**3 David the hero – 1 Samuel, chapter 18, verses 5 to 16, 28 to 30**

**a. Card and tin foil shield**

**You will need:** a large piece of stiff card, a strip of card to make the brace on the back, tin foil, a pair of scissors, glue and/or sticky tape

Hold the shield shape against your body, with your arm (left arm if you are right-handed, right arm if you are left-handed) horizontal behind it. The strip of card for the brace needs to be placed so that you can slide your hand through it, so it needs to be approximately vertical. Ask someone to help you get this right and glue or sticky tape the brace in place. Use tin foil to decorate your shield.

**b. Helmet**

**You will need:** a piece of card wide enough to go round your head, and tall enough to stand up above your head. If necessary, join two pieces together to give you enough to go round, glue, and/or staples, tin foil or black paint and paint brush.

Join the ends of the card together so that the circle fits your head (if you are using staples, make sure the ends are on the outside, so you don’t scratch your head) to make a wide tube. Cut down from the top of the tube to about two inches from the bottom of the tube, in 6 or 8 places. Overlap these pieces at the top so that your helmet slopes from the brim to the top. Fasten the overlapping pieces together so that they stay in place. Paint the helmet or cover it in tin foil.

As David grew up, instead of just visiting the army, like he was when he fought Goliath, he joined the army. He was good at being a soldier, and good at leading other soldiers. He became so good at it that he was famous in the towns where the Israelite people lived – and the towns where their enemies lived. Saul was a good soldier too – but David was more popular, possibly because he was younger!

It upset Saul when he heard people say that Saul had killed thousands of their enemies, but David had killed tens of thousands!

When David ran away from Saul, some of his friends from the army joined him, and they became like a small army, still fighting for the Israelites against their enemies, but also trying to stay clear of Saul and his army.

**Talk about:** the skills you might need to be a leader, how to deal with popularity, in leadership and as an ordinary person

**4 David the Outlaw – 1 Samuel, chapters 21 to 30 – we are focussing on chapter 24**

**a. Picture to draw or colour (in the celebration)**

**You will need:** a copy of the pictures in the pack, colouring pencils or pens

Draw your own version and colour it in.

For small children, there is a picture of King Saul to colour.

**b. Wax and black paint picture**

**You will need:** wax crayons, piece of paper, black paint (watered down so it is not too thick), ordinary pencils if you want to draw your outlines, large paint brush

Draw David hiding at the back of the cave (see story below) and Saul sitting at the front of the cave. Colour in with wax crayons, and then paint over the whole picture with black paint. The black paint should not stick to the wax crayons, leaving the picture showing on a black page.

For several years after David ran away from Saul, when Saul wanted to kill him, David stayed well away from Saul while still fighting for the Israelites. Saul was trying to fight both David and his men, and the enemies of Israel. At one point, David even went to live among his enemies – but he refused to fight for them, pretending he was mad.

On one occasion, David and his men were hiding in a cave, and Saul and his men were chasing them. Saul wanted to stop for a bit, so he went and found a convenient cave for a sit down. He just happened to choose the cave that David and his men were hiding in! Some of David’s men suggested that David should kill Saul there and then, before Saul managed to catch them and kill David. David refused to do any such thing – he said that Saul was the Lord’s anointed, and he would not do him any harm. But he did creep from the back of the cave to the front, and cut a piece of cloth from Saul’s cloak, as he sat at the front of the cave.

When Saul left the cave, David went out and called after him that he, David, could have killed him, but he didn’t. He assured Saul that he would never harm him, why did Saul listen to people who said he would? He showed Saul the piece he had cut from the cloak, pointing out that he could have killed Saul, had he wanted.

Saul replied that he was sorry to have mistrusted David, and asked him to promise never to harm any member of his family. David promised, but still he and Saul did not return to the days when they had fought together for Israel. There would come another time when Sail tried to kill David, before the end of Saul’s life.

**Talk about:** how you could cope with someone who you didn’t like, or who didn’t like you, without fighting.

**Celebration**

Last time we talked about David he was a shepherd boy. He visited his brothers when they were in King Saul’s army, and he killed Goliath. We’re going to remember that as we sing.

Song **My God’s the king of the giants -** <https://youtu.be/Smv-mAtgoOM>

David became a hero to the Hebrews. Whenever he went out to fight he was successful, and he became important in King Saul’s army. But there was more than that. King Saul often had angry moods. David was a musician. He played the harp, and his music could calm Saul. So Saul kept David with him. David and Jonathan, Saul’s son, became good friends. We can’t make harps, but we’ll make shakers to play with our next song.

(Make shakers)

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

David was very popular and successful, more successful than Saul. Saul grew jealous of David. He realised that the people would like David to be King. He tried to kill David a number of times when he was in an angry mood. One time he held a feast, and invited David, intending to kill him. David was aware of this, and spoke to Jonathan. Jonathan didn’t think that was what his father intended, but agreed that David should stay away and hide. He arranged a signal to tell David if it was safe to come.

When Saul noticed that David had not come to the feast he asked Jonathan about it. Jonathan said that he had given David permission to stay away. Saul was very angry at this and told Jonathan that David should be killed. Jonathan went to the place he had arranged with David and gave him the warning signal. David left and became an outlaw. He had to escape from Saul and from the Philistines as well. He had a lot of men with him and they protected the people as much as they could, but Saul kept after David.

Draw a picture of David the outlaw.

One day David and his men were hiding at the back of a big cave, because Saul was chasing them. Imagine how surprised they must have been when Saul came into the cave on his own. It would have been easy for David to kill Saul, but he didn’t. He crept up to where Saul was and cut a little bit off his cloak. Then he waited till Saul left the cave, then went out and showed him the bit of cloth. He told him that he wouldn’t attack him because he was king. Saul realised that he was wrong to be jealous of David, and for a while things became better.

Prayer

Dear God, sometimes we are jealous of other people because they are more popular than us, or have things we don’t. Help us to learn what is important, that you love us and care for us.

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>