**Messy Church – July 2023**

**Rescue – Peter walking on water**

The story we will be using in the celebration is the story of Jesus walking on water, and what happened when Peter wanted to try it.

The story is in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 14, verses 22 to 33; the versions in the Gospel of Mark, chapter 6, verses 45 to 52, and the Gospel of John, chapter 6, verses 15 to 21, don’t have the part about Peter trying to do the same thing.

The activities are:

1. Lighthouses (in the Celebration)
2. Sandcastle pen pot
3. Helicopter spinner (in the Celebration)
4. Emergency vehicle picture
5. Rock cakes
6. Fishing boat scene

**Stories and Activities**

1. **Paper cup lighthouse** (in the Celebration)

**You will need:** a paper cup, a clear plastic cup, pens or paint, to make the paper cup red and white striped, black marker pen and black paint for the clear plastic cup, a battery tealight

Paint the paper cup in red and white stripes (about 1 cm wide for each stripe.

When the paint is dry, use the black marker pen to draw a door and windows.

Put the clear plastic cup over the stripey cup. Where the top of the stripey cup meets the clear plastic cup, draw a black line on the clear cup, and use this as the basis of a railing.

Paint the top of the clear cup black.

Take the clear cup off the stripey cup, and put the battery tealight on the top of the stripey cup. Switch it on, and put the clear cup back on top.

If it is dark outside, turn the lights in your room off so you can see the lighthouse light.

**Talk about:** why lighthouses were built – what do they save sailors from?

1. **Sand castle pen pot**

**You will need:** 3 cardboard tubes per child (you could make it work with 4 for two children) (inners from paper towel rolls, or something similar), glue, paint or garden sand, brown paper, red paper (or paper painted red), cocktail sticks, sticky tape, and a piece of thick paper or card as a base. There is a picture of the completed pen pot with this leaflet. You might want to cover your work surface, so that you don’t get sand everywhere!

Take 3 cardboard tubes and cut castellations into the top of each one – see the picture. If you are using four tubes for three children, cut two of the tubes in half, and cut the castellations into one end of each half.

Stand the tubes (3) together, and cut the end(s) away from the castellations so that one tube is a little taller than the other 2. (If you have cut two tubes in half, you will be cutting the tallest one down, if you are using three tubes for one child, you will be cutting two down a little). Look at the picture so you can see what the castle looks like.

Put glue down each side of the tallest tube, and stick the other two to it. Leave the castle to dry.

If you are painting paper brown and/or red, do this while the glue is drying, and then leave this to dry as well.

Stand your castle on the base card, and draw round the outside, so you have an outline on the base card, then cut out the base, just outside the line you have drawn.

If you are using sand, cover the whole castle in glue, and then in sand until the whole shape is covered. If you don’t have sand, then paint the whole castle sand coloured. Again, leave it to dry.

Put glue on the base shape, along the line you drew, and then put the sandcastle onto the base, so that the ends of the tubes sit in the glue. Leave it to dry.

Cut out a door shape from the brown paper, and stick it to the middle tube. Unless you have some shells available, you could cut window shapes from the brown paper as well, and stick them to the side tubes. If you do have shells, you can stick them to the side tubes.

Cut 6 triangles out of the red paper, and stick them back to back in pairs, with the tip of a cocktail stick between each pair. Stick the other end of the cocktail sticks inside the tops of each tube, to make flags.

**Talk about:** what is a castle for? Have you been to a castle and had a look round? Have you built sandcastles on a beach? Who makes beaches safe for swimmers and surfers?

1. **Helicopter spinner** (in the Celebration)

**You will need:** a print out of the helicopter pattern sent with this booklet (you can print it on scrap paper), a pair of scissors and a paper clip.

Cut out along all the solid lines, fold the panel marked X forward across the centre panel, and the panel marked Y backwards behind the centre panel. Fold the section marked Z upwards, and fasten it with the paper clip. Fold A and B downwards on opposite sides, until they stick out horizontally from the vertical tail.

Drop your helicopter from a height and watch it float down – if you have a banister rail and can see down to the floor below, try that. If you have an upstairs window over your garden, try that, if it isn’t raining.

Very small children might like to colour in the helicopter picture also sent with the mailing, cut it out and blu-tac it to the fridge or other safe surface.

**Talk about:** helicopters used for air-sea rescue, and the air ambulance services. Think about how fast they can get people to safety or to hospital.

1. **Emergency vehicle pictures**

**You will need:** a print out of each of the emergency vehicle pictures provided with this booklet, for each child, scissors, glue, and a sheet of paper as wide as both pictures, measured in landscape format (this can be scrap paper, and if you haven’t got paper big enough, stick several sheets together – you need the horizontal width, the vertical will be fine)

Cut out both the pictures, cutting each picture into strips, carefully (you could draw straight lines, using a ruler, across each picture (vertically). Put the picture strips side by side as you cut them out, to be sure you have them in the correct order. There should be the same number of strips for each picture.

Stick the first strip of the ambulance onto the left hand edge of your backing sheet, then stick the first strip of the fire engine beside it. Then the second strip of the ambulance, followed by the second strip of the fire engine. Keep alternating the strips until you finish with the last strip of the fire engine.

Cut any extra paper on the backing sheet off.

Concertina fold your stuck together picture along the lines where the strips meet, so that you can hold it all with the first strip of the ambulance showing on the top.

Now unfold it so that it will stand up on a table. Look at the picture from each end – you should be able to see the ambulance from one end, and the fire engine from the other. You might find it helpful to sit or kneel down so that your face is at table height, and you are looking at the picture at eye-level.

**Talk about:** the training that fire officers and ambulance technicians and paramedics have, so that they can save lives.

**Rock cakes**

**You will need:** a copy of the recipe sent with this booklet, the ingredients and tools listed. Optional: jelly babies

Make the cakes as shown in the recipe. When they are cooked, arrange some on a plate so that they look like a rocky coastline. If you want, you could add some jelly babies, so that they look like people scrambling over rocks on the beach.

**Talk about:** the jobs that coastguards and lifeboat crews do to keep people safe on the sea.

1. **Fishing boat scene**

**You will need:** a piece of paper to paint the background on (could be scrap paper), paint (or colouring pencils, or felt tip pens)

On your background sheet, paint a background: a big lake, with hills around it. Draw and colour the fishing boat and people, (see picture here) and cut them out, and stick them on the background.

**Or use a print out on card or thick paper of boat (template with the booklet), stick for mast, paper for sail. Blue paper for sea.**

Colour boat brown and cut out. Fold and stick ends together and use tabs to stick to sea. Put mast though cross piece and glue to base (sea). Stick on paper sail.

**Talk about:** having someone around to help when things go wrong. Being able to trust your friends. Being able to trust God, even when you think that what He asks you to do is impossible.

**Celebration**

We’ll start by singing “Our God is a great big God” <https://youtu.be/8Hi8jW1qYsw>

Jesus had tried to find somewhere away from the crowds of people who came to listen to him; he sailed across the sea of Galilee, but the crowd saw him and walked round the lake to where he was. He spoke to them for the whole day, and he fed them, then he sent the disciples back in the boat.

During the night they looked out of the boat and saw Jesus walking on the water. At first they thought it was a ghost, then Peter said, “Jesus, if it’s really you, tell me to get out of the boat and walk to you.” Jesus told Peter, “Come.”

So Peter got out of the boat and started to walk across the water. Then he thought about what he was doing, and started to sink. “Help!” he called out. Jesus grabbed hold of him and helped him back to the boat.

Trying to walk on water isn’t a good idea. We’ve looked at lots of things to go with people who rescue us if we get into trouble. We can get into trouble in all sorts of ways, and not just on the beach. Sometimes we get into trouble because we mess up in the way we live. Jesus came to help us sort that out, to help us live the right way.

We are going to make the lighthouse. We have red paper cups so you need to colour white stripes on them.

We are going to sing My Lighthouse <https://youtu.be/itiB52mVJ9Y>

A lighthouse helps people in boats to know where they are and which way they should be going. It is about helping people keep out of trouble. But Jesus is not just about keeping us out of trouble, good though that would be; he is still there to help us if we do get into trouble.

We can’t make a helicopter, but we can make something that twists in the air a bit like a helicopter. You may see helicopter on the beach to help people who have already got into trouble.

Make “helicopter”

Our prayer

Dear God, thank you that you tell us the right things to do and act as a lighthouse for us. Thank you even more that when we ignore what you want and do wrong things, you don’t just leave us but you are ready to come and rescue us.

Amen.

To finish our celebration, we are going to sing When I was lost you came and rescued me <https://youtu.be/LCoin1k0s48>

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

If you send me pictures of anything you do, I will share some of them on the Church Facebook page or in the Monthly Magazine (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>