**Messy Church – September 2023**

**Noah’s Ark**

The activities are:

1. Rainbow plate
2. Birds
3. Animals – walking puppets
4. Insects – butterflies (splodge painted)
5. Plants – pull out branches (in the Celebration)
6. Balloon plants
7. Cress seeds
8. Biscuits to decorate in the celebration
9. Play-doh fruit and vegetables

The story of Noah’s Ark is one of the most famous stories originally found in the bible. It isn’t always told the way the bible tells it. Today, we will look at the bible story itself, and some of the things around it.

**Stories and Activities**

**1 Rainbow plate**

**You will need:** one paper plate, or large paper circle per child, extra paper to colour and cut out the Ark, wax crayons, felt tip pens, or paint, or tissue paper; hole punch and short piece of string, yarn or ribbon; picture of the finished item (attached)

Punch a hole in the edge of the circle or plate, and thread the string through it. This is the top, where you can hang it up from. In the middle of the circle, draw a mountain, and then cut out and stick on the Ark, as in the picture. Draw waves below the mountain, and colour a rainbow above – if you want, you could make the water and the rainbow with tissue paper.

**Talk about:** God’spromise to Noah that he will never again flood the whole world. For older children: think about how people feel when the country around them is flooded.

**2 Birds**

There are several patterns here you could use to make birds, some more complicated than others. Remember to make two of each if you have time! – or work in pairs.

1. Peg birds

**You will need:** a flat wooden clothes peg, a print of one of the bird shapes in the pack (or more than one, if you have more pegs), colouring pencils or felt tip pens, scissors, thin card if you have printed on paper, and glue, inner tubes of paper towel, or similar, or a short length of line, to peg the birds to.

Stick the template of the bird you are using to the card if you have printed on paper, colour it in and cut it out. Stick the bird to one side of the peg, so that if you put the peg on a washing line, or the top of a paper tube, the bird looks as if it is sitting on whatever you are using.

1. Peacocks

**You will need:** a print out of the template in the pack, a picture of a peacock (to see the colours – in the pack), colouring pencils or felt tip pens, scissors, thin card if you have printed on paper, more card for a base, more paper – blue, green or grey, stick on jewels or sequins for the peacock’s tail – or you can colour it to look like the peacock tail in the picture, scissors, a paper clip and a small amount of sticky tape

Stick the template of the bird you are using to the card if you have printed on paper, colour it in and cut it out. Fold the bottom of the card as the instructions say, and stick it to the base card. Colour or decorate the paper you are using for the tail, and fan fold it, clipping the bottom of the sheet together to hold the shape. Use sticky tape to attach the tail to the back of the peacock.

**Talk about:** different birds eat different food – peacocks are seed eaters, and owls, for example, eat small animals. Think about how Noah managed to feed all the birds and animals on the Ark

**3 Walking puppets**

**You will need:** print outs of any of the animals in the pack – stick them on thin card if you cannot print on card, colouring pencils or felt tip pens, scissors

Stick the template of the animal you are using to the card if you have printed on paper, colour it in and cut it out. Carefully cut out the round holes – ask an adult to help if you are having problems. The holes should be big enough for your fingers to go through. Walk your puppets around on the table or the floor.

**Talk about:** different animals eat different food – rabbits eat grass, like sheep do. Elephants eat tree branches, and lions and tigers eat other animals. Think about how Noah managed to feed all the birds and animals on the Ark

**4 Butterflies**

**You will need:** print out (on paper!) of the butterfly template in the pack, paint, scissors, a lolly stick, a cover for the table if paint will damage it, clothes that don’t matter if you get paint on them!

Cut out the butterfly, fold it in half and then unfold it again and put it flat on your work surface, with the fold downwards. Put blobs of paint on one side only of the butterfly. Fold the unpainted side over onto the painted side and press it down lightly. Unfold again, and leave to dry. Now you have a symmetrically coloured butterfly – just as they are naturally. When the paint is dry, stick a lolly stick to the underside of the butterfly, along the unfolded fold. If you flap it gently, it looks like it is flying.

**Talk about:** where butterflies come from – did Noah keep caterpillars or butterflies? How long do butterflies live?

**5 Pull out trees – in the Celebration**

**You will need:** paper (green, brown, scrap – even newspaper), sticky tape, scissors, pictures of the process, attached

Roll the paper up tightly into a tube (roll it from one of the short sides). Stick the side down at one end of the roll. Cut down the tube, through all the layers of paper, from the end away from the sticky tape, to about ¾ of the way down the tube (see the picture). Carefully pull up the inner layers of the tube, so that it forms a tree with branches drooping down the sides. (If you need an adult to help, ask!)

**Talk about:** why trees are essential to the health of the world – not just as food!

**6 Balloon plants**

**You will need:** modelling balloons, balloon pump

Blow up a balloon – watch it as it grows – or watch as someone else blows it up. If you want, you can make a flower or an animal with the balloon (don’t blow it up to thoroughly, and then you can twist it into different shapes.) You may want to use more than one balloon for your plant or animal.

**Talk about:** look at how the balloon grows – and think about how plants grow. We can’t see them growing, but we can track their development by the leaves and the height. Have you watched how a plant flowers – the buds getting fatter and fatter, and then opening? Sometimes flower buds open slowly, and sometimes they seem to explode open.

**7 Growing cress (in the celebration)**

**You will need:** cress seeds, paper towel, a waterproof container to grow them in – yoghurt pots would work – and some water

Cover the bottom of your container with a couple of layers of paper towel, and make it very wet – but make sure that all the water has soaked into the paper towel. If there is too much water, tip out the extra.

Sprinkle the cress seeds over the paper towel. Leave them in a warm place – on a windowsill, as the weather is now, will be fine. Make sure that the paper towel is always damp – a little water every day should be fine. The seeds should sprout in about 24 hours, and be ready to eat in about a week.

**8 Biscuits – we will make these and then decorate them in the celebration**

**You will need:** the recipe (attached to the email) and the tools and ingredients listed in the recipe.

Make up the biscuits and cook them. When they are cool, ice rainbows on them!

**Talk about:** do you watch for rainbows when it is sunny and rainy? Have you noticed that the sky is always darker above the bow than below it? Do you think of the rainbow as a reminder of a promise?

**9 Playdoh fruit and vegetables**

**You will need:** playdoh in various colours, a paper plate to put your creations on

Make your fruit and vegetables and put them on the plate. Ask an adult to take a photograph of your full plate, before the playdoh has to be put away at the end of the afternoon.

**Talk about:** why fruit and vegetables are good for you, what the difference between a fruit and a vegetable is

**Celebration**

Sing Harvest Samba <https://youtu.be/dqpkWsR6Yew>

We may have heard the story of Noah’s Ark, but the best bit is what comes afterwards.

The story tells how Noah was a good man at a time when there were lots of bad people. So God said, “I’m going to send a flood to wash away all the bad people, but because Noah is good and I don’t want to get rid of everyone, I’ll get him to build a boat. Him and his family can stay on the boat while the flood happens.

“And I don’t want to get rid of all the animals, so Noah will have to build a really big boat that can hold two of each type of animal.”

So Noah built the Ark, the really big boat, and gathered the animals together. And it rained for days and days and the flood waters rose and the Ark floated.

Then it stopped raining. Gradually the flood waters went down, until the Ark came to rest. Once there was enough dry land, Noah let the animals out so they could spread over everywhere again. Noah thanked God that he had survived the flood, and God said, “I’ll never send a flood like that again. As long as the earth remains there will always be a time to plant and a time for harvest. And, as a sign for this, look at my rainbow in the sky. Whenever you see a rainbow you can remember this promise.”

So first we’re going to ice rainbows on the biscuits you made (or on plain biscuits if you haven’t made any). We usually talk about there being 7 colours in a rainbow. Do you what order they go in?

Sing Cauliflowers fluffy. <https://youtu.be/PukdaXUzgOU>

It takes a while for plant to grow. We’re going to make some pull-out trees that you make grow.

Prayer

Dear God, thanks you for all the wonderful things you give us. At this time of year, when we see all the crops and fruit getting ripe we particularly thank you for harvest.

We know that there are still floods that happen, even if they are not as big as the flood in the story. Thank you for people who help others who are caught by floods. Please be with the families of people who have died in them. Help us not to do the things that make floods worse.

Amen

Sing Give thanks for the harvest <https://youtu.be/DsqocyckoFc>

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 ones you’re happy to share.)

Harlington Messy Church Team

You can see the recording on YouTube, on the Harlington Methodist Church YouTube Channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTMWR_QCxujkh1zHjTFcoJw/videos>