

## Report of Messy Church on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January

We learned about Jacob's early life – the way he tricked his brother Esau out of his inheritance, and the dream he had when running away across the desert. In the dream Jacob saw a ladder going up to heaven with angels (God's messengers) going up and down it.

After a simple breakfast we had fun taking part in the five activities.



We had Ladder Hopscotch with angel shaped bean bags, and we decorated stones (Jacob's pillow) to make them special. We made edible models of the ladder and angels using 'Curly Wurly' bars, a fairy cake, jelly babies



and cotton wool (but we did not eat the cotton wool clouds).



We also decorated two people shapes; one as a sad, mean person (Jacob at the beginning of the story) and one as a happy person (Jacob after God had forgiven him), which were used during the telling of the story.



Finally, we cut out an angel shape, wrote a short prayer on it and decorated it. Then the angels 'flew up to heaven' on a string attached to a ladder - some angels flew up and down several times to the amusement of their creators.



When it was time for the Celebration the children all sat on a 'magic carpet' and were transported to Jacob's homeland, where we heard his story. We learnt that children should not be mean to their brothers and sisters, and parents should not favour one of their children above the other(s), but most of all we learnt that God loves us and will forgive us. The children were mesmerised by the storytelling and the pictures, and hardly moved until it was time to sing and dance around to two songs before going home. It was raining hard all morning, which made transferring all the equipment and food into and out of All Saints Church 'challenging', but it was well worth the effort as we had a very enjoyable and rewarding morning.