

Messy Church Report February 2019

Our February session, the theme: "Self Confidence", was based on the Old Testament story of Gideon (Judges 6: 11-16). After a delicious breakfast we settled down to our activities which explored our fears and our feelings about ourselves, and to consider how God (his peace, love and his encouragement) can make such a difference in our lives.

One activity was a game in which people had to try to shake out ping pong balls from a box strapped to their backs, which is incredibly difficult as well as ridiculous. This reminded us about how futile it was that Gideon was trying to thresh corn in a winepress because he was frightened at being seen. Sometimes we are tempted to do silly things because we are frightened.

We wrote things which can worry or frighten us on one side of origami doves of peace, and on the other "You can do because I can help you" on the other reminding us how Gideon's life was transformed when he met with God.



There was a blindfolded obstacle course which was undertaken in pairs, each participant having a guide, whom they had to trust to show them the safe way to get to the end.

We did an experiment involving a glass half filled with water over which we placed a card. When the glass was inverted, the card prevented the water from escaping. This is due to the air pressure which we cannot see. We cannot see God, but we know that God is there holding us up and supporting us, just as he did with Gideon.



Around the Church there were cut out figures each having a word written on them. These had to be put in the correct order to spell out "The Lord is with you, brave and mighty man" (Judges 6:12).

The celebration was a team effort. The scene was set by pretending to be the Israelites hiding from the Midianites and Amalekites in a parachute tent, begging God for help, before learning how God listened and sent help by turning the terrified Gideon into "a brave and mighty man". While Gideon (Michael) was trying to thresh wheat in a winepress an Angel (Jane) appeared to him telling him that God wanted him to rescue the Israelites. Gideon made every excuse he could. He



asked the angel to show proof that she was from God by making a fire on a rock to cook some food; this happened. Gideon then realised that God would be with him to become "a brave and mighty man" who would rescue his fellow Israelites and bring them back to worshipping God. He led the people to the sound of his trumpet and they knocked down the statues built to false Gods. When the Amalekites and the Midianites had been defeated Gideon built an altar to the one true God.

We then sang 'God of the Big, God of the Little' accompanying ourselves with various instruments before our final prayer and reminder of the next Messy Church. Saturday 8th March. We look forward to welcoming everyone there.

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