



All Saints Clifton Messy Church

Sunday 24 May

Theme: Lift off! Jesus ascends to heaven

Hello everyone from all the team and welcome to All Saints Clifton Messy Church at home!

Hope you are well and safe! We miss you all!

You can read this bit aloud together as a family! We shall read it to you again with pictures during our May Messy Church at home.

This month we are finding out about what happened after Easter. If you remember back to the Easter story Mary (who was Jesus friend) found the tomb was empty. She runs to tell her friends and they also come to the tomb to find it empty. They all go back home except Mary who stands weeping outside the tomb. She sees two angels who ask her why she is weeping and she explains that they have taken Jesus away. Just then, she turns around and she sees Jesus but she doesn't recognise him. She thinks he is the gardener! Jesus asks her why she is weeping and then he calls her by her name. "Mary" he says. Instantly she recognises him. Jesus then goes on to tell her that sometime soon he will be going to heaven.

Over the next few weeks Jesus appears to his friends in many different places. There are lots of exciting stories in the Bible telling us about these appearances. He comes into a house where the door is locked and says "Peace be with you". But missing from this house was his friend Thomas. When the others tell Thomas he doesn't believe them. A week later Jesus appears to his friends in the house again. This time Thomas is there. Jesus appears again and Thomas sees for himself the scars on Jesus hands and feet and he believes what has happened.

Jesus also appears on the beach and tells his disciples how to catch fish. They end up catching lots of fish and Jesus shares breakfast with them on the beach. In another story Cleopas and his friend are out walking on a road to a village called Emmaus. He walks alongside them but they don't recognise him. They invite Jesus to stay with them at the end of the day and when he breaks and blesses the bread they suddenly recognise him!

In today's story we find out what happens when Jesus friends are with him for the very last time before he goes up to heaven...

Theme: Lift off Jesus ascends to heaven [Acts 1.6-14]

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took them out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up to towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from

you into heaven will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven”. Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter and John, and James, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer together with certain women, including Mary, the mother of Jesus as well as his brothers.

Our activities! – Time to get your May Messy Church kit ready for an action packed session with our Messy Church team who will show you what to do!

1. Rising raisins

You will need: 1 narrow glass, some vinegar, some bicarbonate of soda and some raisins.

2. Cloud scene biscuits (our yummy treat)

You will need: a mixing bowl, a spoon, saucepan or microwave! one digestive biscuit, a packet of marshmallows, a packet of jelly babies, some blue food colouring (optional) and a cocktail stick.

3. Bubble Prayers

You will need: some bubble mixture or some washing up liquid and a green garden wire or zip tie

4. Listening lines

You will need: 2 tin cans (baked bean cans are good for this!), a very long piece of string about 4 metres! A skewer or other device for making holes

5. Ascension colouring

You will need: some colouring pencils or felt pens, and the Ascension window colouring sheet.

Our Messy Church at Home will start at 10:50am with songs getting ready for an 11:00am start on our All Saints Clifton Messy Church Facebook Group or on YouTube – All Saints Churches Clifton and Southill. You may like to share a drink and biscuit as a family just before then like we do at Messy Church. You can print off this sheet, the activity booklet and colouring sheet to get ready! Then join us for a live “Messy Hang Out” on Zoom hosted by Revd Caren anytime between 4-5:00pm when you can show us all your activities, chat and join us for a cup of tea!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87136016476?pwd=bTlRUGMwYWRPWEM0MDJFclhVcEkxdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 9851 4414

Password: 006460

Our Prayer for today: ☺

Loving God, thank you that Jesus appeared to his friends and told them to tell everyone the good news that he died on the cross to save us before he ascended into heaven. Help us to shout out the message, far and wide to the ends of the earth, that Jesus is alive, he is with us now and he shares his love with everyone, always. In Jesus name, Amen.